

Police, protesters clash in Durban

DURBAN (R) — South African police used teargas and whips in clashes with thousands of blacks after an emotive anti-apartheid rally in this Indian Ocean port city on Sunday. The crowd had attended a rare open-air meeting organised by the largest group fighting apartheid race laws in South Africa, the United Democratic Front (UDF), calling for the release of jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela. Dancing and chanting black youths emerged in a solid phalanx onto the street outside the sports stadium. Speakers had included eight leading activists against whom South Africa last week dropped treason charges. The youths went on the rampage in a nearby bus station and stoned two police anti-riot vehicles, which drove off at high speed to reappear shortly afterwards with a convoy of police and troops, some armed with semi-automatic rifles. Riot police clashed with the youths, and chased one group through the grounds of a nearby building.

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N.Yemen to export oil in 1987

SANA'A (R) — North Yemen, which struck its first oil wells last year, is expected to start exporting crude in late 1987, the official SABA news agency said Sunday. It gave no figures, but informed sources say there are reserves of about 700 million barrels in the Ma'arib region, 180 kilometres east of Sana'a. Promising deposits have also been discovered along the borders with Saudi Arabia and South Yemen.

Assad receives Iranian message

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iranian Minister of Guidance Hojatoleslam Mohammad Khatami conferred here Sunday on bilateral relations and Middle East issues, the Syrian News Agency (SANA) reported. During his meeting with Mr. Assad, Mr. Khatami also delivered a letter from Iranian President Ali Khamenei, the report said without giving other details.

Hungarian defence minister dies

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungarian Defence Minister General Istvan Olah, 59, died on Sunday of heart failure, Hungarian Radio reported. Gen. Olah, a professional soldier since 1945, took over the Defence Ministry in December 1984, succeeding Gen. Lajos Cizege, who moved to the post of deputy prime minister.

Israel announces low inflation figure

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel on Sunday announced its lowest monthly inflation figure in nearly nine years, and Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai called the 0.5 per cent November rise in the cost of living "an exceptional achievement." The figure, reported by the central bureau of statistics, brought inflation for the first 11 months of 1985 to 181.5 per cent.

Numeiri followers form new party

KHARTOUM (R) — Supporters of deposed Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri have formed a new party, the National Socialist Alliance (NSA). Former Numeiri aide Osman Abulgasim announced the move at a news conference in Khartoum during which he praised Mr. Numeiri's years in power. "A lot of achievements were accomplished during the 16 years of Numeiri's May revolution and we should not ignore the facts of history," Mr. Abulgasim said. He gave no indication of the size of the new party.

Shultz arrives in Budapest

BUDAPEST (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived on Sunday from Bucharest, Romania, airport officials said. Mr. Shultz was scheduled to spend 40 hours in the Hungarian capital, before going on to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, the last stop on his seven-nation tour. He was met at Ferihegy airport by a high-ranking Hungarian delegation.

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Alia to go public soon, Ghandour announces

- National carrier improves performance
- Chairman outlines plans to expand operations

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian government and the management of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, are seriously considering possibilities of changing the airline's status to become a public shareholding company and a draft plan covering the issue is expected to be finalised in 1986, Ali Ghandour, chairman of the national carrier's board of directors, said Sunday.

Mr. Ghandour, speaking at a press conference marking the 23rd anniversary of Alia, also reported that the airline is expected to break even in its revenues

and expenses in 1985. Alia's operations registered a 3.5 per cent growth in 1985, in terms of revenue and destinations, Mr. Ghandour said. He described the

growth as a "very positive achievement" when compared with 1984 figures. The airline registered a loss of JD 9.5 million in 1984, he said.

Mr. Ghandour also outlined Alia's plans to expand its fleet and operations and proposals to introduce changes in the colours and designs of its aircraft, staff uniforms and stationary and proposals to set standardised specifications for in-flight services, expand domestic and international offices and improve passenger services.

Mr. Ghandour said the draft plan for the airline to become a public shareholding company was "positively received and considered" by the government as well as Alia's board of directors. He said the draft plan would be finalised in 1986.

The proposed change in status, Mr. Ghandour said, might lead to an increase in the airline's budget. He did not elaborate on this point, but said the draft plan calls for the sale of 10 per cent of Alia shares to the public in the first year of the implementation of the proposal. The public share would be gradually increased after assessing "market possibilities and public response," he added.

The Alia chairman described 1985 as a "difficult touchstone" for the airline, mainly due to "the deteriorating political and security

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Alia Chairman Ali Ghandour holds a press conference on Sunday on the occasion of the airline's 23rd anniversary (Petra photo)

King inaugurates two major Alia facilities, page 3

Israel bans W.Bank delegation from meeting Arafat in Amman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A West Bank

Palestinian leader said on Sunday Israel had refused to allow delegation of Palestinian leaders to appeal in person to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to help advance Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

Hanna Siniora, editor of the newspaper Al Fajr, told reporters the 14 leaders from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were told they could travel to the East Bank as individuals, as in the past, but not as a delegation to meet Mr. Arafat.

"We wanted the delegation to go openly in order to show both sides that the Palestinians in the occupied territories are working for peace," Mr. Siniora said.

"If the military authorities don't want this delegation to go, we understand from this they don't want us to make progress toward peace."

Mr. Siniora said the delegation planned to tell Mr. Arafat that he should "conditionally accept" U.N. Security Resolutions 242

and 338.

An Israeli official who spoke on condition of anonymity told the AP the occupation authorities would not approve plans for the delegation to travel to the East Bank either as a delegation or individually if their purpose was to meet with Mr. Arafat.

Other Israeli officials refused to comment on the issue but cited official policy which "has always been that we do not authorise residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to go abroad to meet with hostile elements."

However, the daily Maariv quoted Prime Minister Shimon Peres as saying in a speech on Saturday that he might make an exception and permit the delegation to go. Peres' spokesman was not in his office when telephoned for comment on Sunday, the AP said.

Resolutions 242 and 338 call for Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab lands but assert its right to exist. The United States, Israel's closest ally, makes acceptance of the resolutions a precondition for PLO participation in

peace talks.

The PLO refuses to accept the two resolutions on their own because they refer to Palestinians as a nation and not as refugees.

"We want to try and get a conditional acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338, the condition being PLO participation in an international conference and recognition of Palestinian rights to self-determination," Mr. Siniora said.

Mr. Siniora defined self-determination as self-rule within a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as outlined in the Feb. 11 accord between Jordan and the PLO.

The idea for the meeting terminated after a similar delegation of West Bank and Gaza Palestinians met Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy in the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem 10 days ago, Mr. Siniora said. Mr. Murphy was not told of the plan, he said.

The would-be delegation also

(Continued on page 2)

Syrian efforts show sign of progress in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Fresh

Syrian-backed efforts to end Lebanon's civil war showed some signs of progress on Sunday as an official of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia headed for Damascus for a second day of talks with Syrian leaders.

"The door is still open," said a Lebanese political source, commenting on separate peace talks in Damascus on Saturday between Syrian officials and rival Lebanese militia representatives.

Militia sources said Marwan Hamade of the PSP went to Damascus to discuss proposed changes to a peace pact drafted by the PSP, the Shi'ite Amal and the mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces."

Syria's peace drive stalled a month ago when some Christian leaders objected to the draft, which included reforms to give Muslims a greater say in the Christian-dominated government. Saturday's talks were the first major attempt to revive the process.

The sources told Reuters Mr. Hamade would deliver a reply on behalf of the PSP and Amal to

changes proposed by the "Lebanese Forces."

"Lebanese Forces" sources said Amal and PSP told Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam on Saturday they would okay a number of "Lebanese Forces" amendments.

"Some of the amendments were accepted. But perhaps they were not the major ones, we cannot specify," said the source, who declined to be identified when he spoke to Reuters.

He said a resumption of direct negotiations between the three groups depended on substantial progress in the separate talks in Damascus. The militia's leaders have never met together.

Beirut's As Saffir newspaper said the amendments under discussion covered a wide range of political issues.

These included the powers of the Christian-held presidency, relations with Syria, and the length of a transitional period for phasing out the sectarian political system favouring the Christian minority.

Syria has moved up missiles, Levi says

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's army

chief said on Sunday Syria has moved up anti-aircraft missiles to the Lebanese border, posing a threat to Israeli air missions over Lebanon.

"The deployment of these missiles significantly impedes and prevents our freedom of flight in Lebanese skies," General Moshe Levy told reporters.

He said the Soviet-built SA-2 missiles, which have a range of 40-50 kilometres, were moved after Israeli and Syrian planes fought a dogfight in which Israel said two Syrian MiGs were shot down on Nov. 19.

Israel routinely conducts flights over the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon and has repeatedly carried out bombings.

An army spokesman said the missile batteries had been deployed at Zabadani, close to the Syrian-Lebanese border, impairing Israel's ability to collect intelligence.

Military officials said Israel had passed on its concern about the deployment to Syria through diplomatic channels.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor receive King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, who arrived on a one-day visit on Sunday (Petra photo)

Iraq, Iran escalate air attacks

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq

and Iran both reported raids on each other's positions on Sunday establishing diplomatic relations with Israel as long as the Jewish state maintains its "aggressive and expansionist" policy.

Speaking at a press conference here on Sunday, the third day of an official visit to Jordan, Mr. Wu also refuted reports of Chinese-Israeli relations and cooperation in the fields of arms and technology.

"Such reports are groundless," he said. "China has always supported the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people by opposing the Israeli policy," he told reporters, hours after he met Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir.

In reply to a question on his meeting with Mr. Wazir, the Chinese minister said he reviewed

Wu rules out diplomatic ties between China and Israel

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Chinese Foreign

Minister Wu Xueqian has ruled out any possibility of his country establishing diplomatic relations with Israel as long as the Jewish state maintains its "aggressive and expansionist" policy.

Speaking at a press conference here on Sunday, the third day of an official visit to Jordan, Mr. Wu also refuted reports of Chinese-Israeli relations and cooperation in the fields of arms and technology.

"Such reports are groundless," he said. "China has always supported the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people by opposing the Israeli policy," he told reporters, hours after he met Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir.

In reply to a question on his meeting with Mr. Wazir, the Chinese minister said he reviewed

with the PLO official cooperation between China and the PLO in all fields.

"China's relations with the PLO are very strong and we extend moral support and technical assistance to the PLO, in addition to financial backing, within our capabilities," said Mr. Wu.

He reiterated China's support for the proposal by Jordan, the PLO and other Arab countries for an international peace conference on the Middle East to bring about a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He also voiced total backing for the Feb. 11 Jordan-PLO accord.

Asked what role could China play in implementing the proposal for an international conference, Mr. Wu said China has always called for such a gathering, particularly at the U.N. Security Council and General Assembly.

China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Mr. Wu said parties involved in

Spanish king, queen arrive

AMMAN (J.T.) — King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain arrived in Amman on Sunday on a private visit to Jordan on their way to Oman.

Upon their arrival in Amman they were greeted by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, and members of the Royal Family.

Also present at the airport to greet the king and queen of Spain were Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Emilio Nenedez and their wives.

(Continued on page 2)

Israel 'astonished' over case of illegal U.S. arms

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has asked U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering for an explanation of charges that Israel illegally obtained a new tank gun from the United States, a government statement said on Sunday.

In the statement, issued after the weekly cabinet session, the government said it was "astonished" at such inferences.

Last Thursday U.S. customs agents raided three U.S. arms firms in a search for evidence of illegal military shipments to Israel.

The firms help make cannon barrels for the M-1 tank, using a secret chrome plating process to improve accuracy.

A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Albany, New York, said U.S. government licences required for the export of such technology had not been obtained. But Israel contended it had received U.S. approval and financing to import the technology.

"The implication of Israel in the affair is cause for astonishment," Sunday's cabinet statement said.

Some Israeli officials have linked the affair to the arrest in Washington last month of Jonathan Pollard, a U.S. intelligence analyst accused of selling Israeli military secrets.

Israel has apologised to the United States over the Pollard case, which is being investigated by a five-man U.S. team.

The U.S. team, here since Dec. 11 to question Israelis suspected of hiring Pollard, "continued their work" on Sunday under a veil of secrecy, an American official told the AP.

A senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the AP he "would not rule out" a connection between the raids and the Pollard scandal.

A U.S. Defence Department spokesman said on Friday that the United States had reduced intelligence sharing with Israel because of the Pollard affair.

U.S. embassy spokesman Arthur Berger said Pickering conveyed Rabin's request for explanation to the State Department. He declined further comment.

Occupation forces reportedly plan Arroub hospital closure

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel is reportedly planning to close down

an Arab hospital in the occupied West Bank to deny Arabs of medical treatment and to force them to abandon their land, according to a spokesman for the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS).

The spokesman said that the society's chairman, Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, has sent a cable to the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva requesting a report based on information published in the Israeli press about the occupation authorities' intention to close down the Arroub hospital, located in the Arroub area near Hebron. The hospital has been offering treatment to patients suffering from tuberculosis, the spokesman said.

Reports from the occupied West Bank said on Sunday that the Israeli authorities were laying a siege around Birzeit, Bethlehem

and Al Najah universities in the West Bank and searching all those entering or leaving the premises.

According to a report by the Palestinian News Agency, Wafa, the new measures were imposed to prevent the students from displaying any show of solidarity with the Arab detainees in Israeli jails, now staging a hunger strike in protest against prison conditions.

The hunger-strikers suspended nine-day-old strike after prison authorities have announced to a delegation of Arab and Jewish lawyers that the inmates' demands will be met.

Wafa also reported that an Israeli court have sentenced a Palestinian citizen from Gaza, 30-year-old Ali Hassan Zuweidi, to 17 years in prison.

Another Palestinian, 40-year-old Abdullah Abadleh, has been sentenced to four months in prison for allegedly being employed to serve as agent for an unidentified Arab country.

Jordan-PLO team seeks Arab support for projects

MUSCAT (J.T.) — A

Jordanian-Palestinian committee currently on a visit to Oman has outlined its activities and its role in supporting the steadfastness of the Arab population under Israeli rule.

Addressing a press conference on the third day of their visit to Oman, the head of the delegation, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, said that the committee finances educational, housing, industrial, social welfare, agricultural and cultural schemes being carried out in the occupied Arab territories.

He also spoke of the recurrent deficit in a special fund which was set up to finance these schemes and urged Arab governments to honour their financial commitments to the fund. The deficit is affecting the committee's schemes and consequently the Arab people who benefit from them and who require every possible assistance to stand firm in the face of Israel's attempts to drive them out of their homeland. Dr. Khayyat pointed out.

Dr. Khayyat paid tribute to the strong relations between Jordan and Oman and voiced his satisfaction regarding the positive response displayed by Omani officials during the committee's visit.

The joint delegation comprises Dr. Khayyat, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kana'an and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee representatives.

The committee met with Omani government officials including Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Ibn Alawi. A PLO official said the talks covered moves towards a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

OPENING SOON
JORDAN SUPERMARKET
ABDOUS BRANCH

27 Kuwaiti deputies launch middle-of-the-road bloc

KUWAIT (AP) — A group of 27 deputies emerged Sunday as a middle-of-the-road bloc within the 50-seat Kuwaiti parliament, pledging to "balance" government-opposition interaction.

Calling itself the "Independent Bloc," the group represents rural constituencies, with the avowed aim of getting the executive authority to improve services for remote regions in Kuwait.

A spokesman for the bloc told reporters that none of the 27 deputies will be allowed to join any political groupings or be affiliated with any "trends within or outside" parliament.

But the bloc is prohibited in Kuwait, the only Gulf state to have a freely-elected parliament. Groupings like the Muslim Brotherhood and Al Dawa Party operate clandestinely and are often

cracked by the government.

The government has been tolerant of other self-styled blocs within parliament — left-leaning Arab nationalists and religious groupings ranging from moderates to fundamentalists.

Tribal factions and deputies loyal to the ruling Al Sabah family still make up the majority of the assembly, which is elected once every four years.

Analysts said the new bloc groups independent, religious-oriented and pro-government deputies who together make up a "moderate wing" within parliament.

"The primary objective of the new bloc is to create a majority of parliamentarians capable of directing and balancing coordinated action of the executive and legislative authorities," said Mr. Faisal Al Duwaish, head of the new bloc's Preparatory Committee.

The emergence of the bloc has averted a head-on collision between the government and parliament which recently rallied to strip Sheikh Salmaan Duaij Al Sabah of the justice portfolio.

The parliament was elected last March and has since been steering a hardline path with the government, which is led by Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

At one stage during the past nine months, fears were rife that parliament might be dissolved on account of discords with the government.

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 Qatari sheikhs killed in car crash

DOHA (R) — Two members of Qatar's ruling family died in a car crash in Saudi Arabia Sunday, Qatar Radio said. It named them as Sheikh Abdullah bin Suhaim Al Thani, a son of Qatar's late foreign minister, and Sheikh Jassem bin Khalifa bin Abdul Aziz Al Thani. It gave no further details.

Djibouti president in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (R) — The president of Djibouti, Hassan Gouled, was met by King Fahd on his arrival here Sunday for a state visit to Saudi Arabia, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

Howe plans Gulf tour in January

RIYADH (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe is planning a week-long visit to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman in mid-January, diplomatic sources said Sunday. The visit would cover regional and bilateral issues, but details including precise dates have not yet been finalised, they said. Sir Geoffrey last visited the Gulf in 1984.

Turkish freighter sinks in Marmara

ISTANBUL (R) — Three seamen were killed and seven others were missing after Turkish-registered freighter Vadi sank in the Sea of Marmara, Turkish radio said. Port authorities at Canakkale on the Dardanelles Strait, where the Vadi was bound from Bandirma, said they did not know the cause of the disaster and could give no details of the vessel, which the radio said was carrying a cargo of plaster. Rescue teams were searching for the missing, the radio added.

Iran releases 97 disabled Iraqis

LONDON (R) — Iran released 97 disabled Iraqi prisoners of war (PoWs) Sunday and flew them to Turkey for repatriation, Iran's National News Agency IRNA reported. The agency, received in London, said the PoWs were examined by a Turkish doctor and a member of a Turkish Red Crescent team before they left Tehran. It said 491 disabled Iraqi PoWs had so far been freed and quoted an official as saying Iran would send home during the next few months all remaining disabled Iraqis captured in the five-year-old Gulf war.

Saudi minister to visit Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia will pay a four-day official visit to Bangladesh from Tuesday for talks on defence and economic matters, Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has said. He told official BSS news agency: "We shall discuss all bilateral matters including defence, economic cooperation and other matters of mutual interest." Prince Sultan, who is deputy prime minister and minister for defence and civil aviation, is the highest-ranking member of the Saudi Royal Family to visit Bangladesh. Mr. Chowdhury said the visit would pave way for a trip to Bangladesh by King Fahd next year. He gave no details.

Egypt sentences 2 Sri Lankans to death for drug smuggling

CAIRO (Agencies) — A Sri Lankan has been sentenced to hang in the first death sentence handed down by Egypt for drug smuggling, Interior Ministry sources said Sunday.

An Israeli could also face capital punishment in a separate drug trafficking case, the sources said. The government, in a determined bid to combat increasing use of narcotics in Egypt, last month urged courts to sentence drug smugglers to death.

The sources said the Sri Lankan was arrested at Cairo airport in March bringing three kilograms of heroin into the country. He was convicted and sentenced by Cairo criminal court Saturday.

The sources could not name the man. The Sri Lankan embassy said it was aware of its nationals

had been sentenced to death but did not know his identity. Police sources said an Israeli was detained two months ago at Cairo airport with 1.5 kilograms of heroin after he arrived from India on his way to Israel.

The Israeli embassy named him as Yusef Taban, of Egyptian origin. The sources said the Israeli was charged last Thursday and the prosecution was demanding the death penalty.

A bill is now before parliament to make the death sentence compulsory in hard drug smuggling cases.

A leading psychiatrist estimated Egypt had about 100,000 cocaine or heroin addicts spending seven million dollars a day on hard drugs.

Ghandour: Alia to go public soon

(Continued from page 1)

situation in the region and the economic recession which hit the Arab World in general and Jordan in particular.

According to Mr. Ghandour, the airline's 3.5 per cent growth in 1985 was directly linked to the smooth operations of long-range flights on routes such as Amman-Chicago, Amman-Los Angeles and Amman-Singapore and the introduction of a new Amman-Kuala Lumpur route. The first three of the four flights were introduced in 1984 and the fourth in 1985.

"Long-range flights help offset losses incurred in operating short and medium-range flights," Mr. Ghandour said, adding that long-range flights also offer new marketing chances.

Alia now operates 17 planes, including Boeing 747s, TriStars, Boeing 727s and 707s.

Statistics given by Mr. Ghandour revealed that Alia is expected to generate a total revenue estimated at JD 135 million and carry 1,135,000 passengers with a total flying time of 24,525 hours in 1986.

The airline's seat-occupancy rate in the year was 57.5 per cent. Alia now employs a total of 4,670 people, including management and administrative staff, sales personnel and aircraft crew and maintenance staff.

"Staff productivity has increased and now it stands at 100,000 tonnes per person," Mr. Ghandour said. "This reflects the efficiency and good quality of our staff," he added.

The Alia chairman expressed high optimism that the airline would be able to improve its performances in all fields in 1986.

He also expressed hope that the airline's seat-occupancy rate would increase to 69 per cent, and staff productivity would go up by 30 per cent and the operational revenues would reach JD 8.5 million, thereby registering JD 500,000 in net profit in 1986.

Alia has a "very limited" capital and all its planes and equipment were bought through loans, he said. The airline pays JD 18 million every year as interest on the loans, he said.

Alia also plans to operate two new regular flights — one to Sana'a and the other to Moscow — and increase flights on the Los Angeles-Chicago route as well as the Istanbul and Tunis routes, he said.

Mr. Ghandour said the new facility was the first of its kind in the Middle East and it will serve Alia's engineering needs as well as those of other carriers in the region at a lower cost and save time.

The Alia Gateway Hotel, a 315-room four-star facility, will accommodate transit passengers and crew of other airlines operating in Jordan. Mr. Ghandour paid tribute to the King for his role in promoting and supporting Alia and said the airline's growth and success were due to the King's directives to project Alia as the carrier of Jordan's flag and a bridge between Jordan and the world.

Eventually, "we hope to be able to reach South America and Western Africa in the near future and we shall keep expanding into new markets," he added.

Pointing out that Alia currently has 96 offices abroad, he said: "The presence of Alia in many world capitals and other places has high political, social and economic significance. They also help promote Jordan's tourism and strengthen the national economy."

Mr. Ghandour also said the addition of two major facilities at Queen Alia International Airport — which were inaugurated by His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday — an aircraft engine overhaul workshop and the Alia Gateway Hotel, will complement Alia's role.

The overhaul workshop is partly financed by the Rolls Royce company of the United Kingdom and the Lockheed Corporation of the United States, according to an Alia public relations office press release.

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Spanish king, queen arrive

(Continued from page 1)

Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid bin Shaker issues of common concern to China and Jordan, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. The meeting, held at the Army Headquarters, was attended by Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb, a delegation accompanying Mr. Wu and China's Ambassador to Jordan Chang Jin.

Mr. Wu and the delegation also met with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib on Sunday to discuss bilateral cooperation in the energy field.

Later, the King and the Queen hosted a dinner for King Zaid bin Shaker and Queen Sofia. The banquet was attended by Mr. Rifa'i, Mr. Qasem, General Sharif Zaid and Mr. Masri, the Spanish foreign minister and ambassador in Amman and their wives.

Includes deposed Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natsh, recently appointed Nablus Mayor Zafar Al Masri, Nablus notable Hikmet Al Masri, deposed Gaza Mayor Rashid Shawwa, Gaza lawyer Fayez Abu Rahma, Basal and Said Kansan of Nablus, and Eddin Arian from Ramallah, Masri reported.

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Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid and Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian hold talks on Sunday (Petra photo)

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Crown Prince leaves on working visit to Vienna

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan left Amman Sunday on a several-day working visit to Austria during which he will meet with Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschläger and senior Austrian officials for talks on issues of interest to the two countries.

Prince Hassan will also chair the meetings of the Independent

Commission on International Humanitarian Issues which will discuss issues related to desertification and ways of abating Sudan in this field.

Prince Hassan was seen off by Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaki, Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Muhammad Mhanna and senior officials.

Hmoud, new council for Zarqa discuss municipality's projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A general meeting was held at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Sunday to discuss a plan of work for the new municipal council of Zarqa.

Minister Marwan Hmoud and the council members discussed priorities in Zarqa Municipality's projects for the coming year and the different problems facing the council members.

Cooperation between the members of the council, building bridges between the council and the public and carrying out urgent projects are three main elements

which would ensure success for the council, the minister said at the meeting.

The minister urged council to reorganise municipality staff and to purchase essential equipment to speed up work on different projects. One of these projects said is the "crafts zone" and which is under construction. He also urged the council to purchase 1500 dunams of state-owned land to carry out public utility projects. Among other subjects discussed at the meeting were organisational plans and digging operations.

Cloudy skies but no sign of rain

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Monday's weather is expected to be partly cloudy with north westerly moderate winds but as yet there is no sign of rain in this late winter season. Meteorology Department Director Ali Abanda told the Jordan Times Sunday.

Discussing the impact of late rainfall on the agricultural sector in the Kingdom, one official said that the delay of winter has negatively affected agriculture and pastures, particularly in the eastern regions.

Mr. Ghaleb Abu Orabi, director general of the pasture and Forestry Department at the Ministry of Agriculture told the Jordan Times that the ministry has postponed cultivation in the parts of the country which have not received sufficient rainfall. Although certain areas have been planted, the ministry is wary of continuing planting until a sufficient quantity of rain falls, Mr. Orabi continued. However, he voiced optimism saying that Jordan has witnessed similar delays in rainfall but often the season ends with high rainfall enabling agricultural productivity to reach high levels.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Alia opens charity bazaar

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Sunday opened a charity bazaar at the Marriott Hotel in Amman organised by Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. The one-day bazaar displayed needlework, children's toys, clothing and national costumes. Several diplomatic missions in Amman took part in organising the bazaar to help the society which was established in 1971 to offer welfare, education, physiotherapy and vocational training to handicapped children in Jordan.

Joint committee to convene Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Iraqi joint committee will hold a meeting here Saturday to discuss a number of subjects which deal with supporting bilateral cooperation in economic fields. The Jordanian side to the meeting will be led by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai while the Iraqi side will be led by Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan. The committee's meeting will be preceded by a preparatory meeting to be held in Amman.

Obeid chairs ARC board meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) board of directors held a meeting Sunday under the chairmanship of its chairman and Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid. The meeting discussed issues related to transport safety on railways and technical issues related to locomotives and their loads. A JD 35,000 tender has been floated for the supply of a fork lift with a capacity of 120 tonnes for lifting engines in case of derailment. The quantities of phosphate transported via the railways from Al Hama mines to Aqaba port during this year reached 2,331,726 tonnes.

Hamzeh inaugurates Madaba health centre

MADABA (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Sunday inaugurated a health centre in Madaba district governorate which will provide services to some 6,000 people in the villages of Jamel, Al Musheirfa, Mestaba, Al Yahoum, Al Dama, Salia, Um Al Rasas and Thrayah. Dr. Hamzeh pointed out that the opening of this centre comes within the ministry's plan to spread its services to all citizens throughout the country. The minister also listened to public requests and promised to carry them out in accordance with available resources.

Social security conference starts today

AMMAN (Petra) — The first Arab conference for the directors of social security corporations in the Arab World opens here today. Social Security Corporation (SSC) Director General Mahdi Farhan said that the holding of this two-day conference is in implementation of a recommendation by the fifth Arab seminar on social security held in Morocco in April last year. The seminar stressed the necessity of holding meetings for the exchange of views and joint dialogue on social security and insurance and ways of developing them for the Arab citizen. This pan-Arab meeting aims to improve ties between Arab social security corporations, Dr. Farhan added.

Dakhqan swears in 23 new vets

AMMAN (Petra) — Twenty-three vets took the oath Sunday before Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhqan, upon joining the Jordanian Veterinarians Association. Dr. Abdul Fattah Al Kellani, the president of the association, made a speech on the occasion outlining the various problems and difficulties encountered by vets and the association. The minister promised to help find solutions to these problems.

Centre organises handicraft fete

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day bazaar was opened Sunday at Al Wasfiah cultural and vocational training centre in Amman by the wife of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Zaid Al Rifai. On display at the bazaar are embroideries, national costumes, domestic appliances, paintings, flowers, silk clothing, ceramics and other samples of handicraft work prepared by the centre's female students. Proceeds from the bazaar will benefit needy students.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday inaugurates the Gateway Hotel of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines (Petra photo)

Lower House to discuss budget today

By Lamin K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The JD 923.705 million draft budget will be discussed by the Lower House of Parliament today for possible amendments and approval.

The House will also discuss recommendations put forward by its Financial Committee pertaining to the main objectives of the draft budget as outlined by the government two weeks ago.

The 1986 draft budget, like previous budgets, is dictated by Jordan's commitment to strengthen its defence capabilities and to fulfill its financial obligations through the country's limited resources and sources of income.

The draft budget is characterised by bigger spending, cuts in fuel subsidies and by an emphasis, at least in its statement of objectives, on a more effective and bigger role for the private sector to shoulder responsibility in the economy's development.

The increase in public spending is reflected in an estimated JD 825 million for 1986 compared to JD 724 million for last year while revenues are estimated in the new budget to reach JD 886 million, resulting in a JD 37.624 million deficit. Some economists, who seek a stronger free enterprise system in Jordan, argue that big spending is not a characteristic confined to the budget but that it reflects a government trend over the years.

Ahmad Jabir, a renowned economist, says that the "bigger spending in the new draft budget was a natural result of "fundamental economic policies followed by consecutive Jordanian governments over the years." He explained that the Jordanian economy has always been characterised by a huge services sector financed by the government and added that over the years a

jump in total government spending was bound to result.

Huge spending on services

The government has allocated a total of JD 500 million, in addition to the budget, for supporting 20 existing independent service corporations. If this number is added to the budget, the total government spending will be around JD 1423.705 million or 93 per cent of the country's JD 1,523 million Gross National Product.

"This is an incredible percentage by all standards," commented Mr. Jabir, "but it does reflect the magnitude of the government's role in the economy and this is not normal in a free enterprise economy."

In Mr. Jabir's view, vast privatisation of the public service corporations in the country would be the only way for the government to curb expenditure and strengthen the private sector. But, according to Mr. Jabir, privatisation is not feasible or possible nor can it be accommodated to the present economic reality. "For the time being, the government is stuck with big spending," he noted.

Covering the deficit

According to the draft budget statement, the government will seek to cover the deficit by checking spending and by improving local sources of revenue. But Jordanian economists warn that with no indication of any substantial increase in local revenues, the increase in government spending would make the government vulnerable to foreign aid and more dependent on loans.

A leading economist, Fehed Al Faneck, has warned that the government might not be able to raise the estimated revenues in the new budget.

He noted that domestic revenues this year were able to cover only 80 per cent of the recurrent expenditure while the government previously estimated that domestic revenues would be able to cover 104 per cent of the recurrent expenditure.

Taxes, fees and customs duties are the main sources of Jordan's domestic revenues, but customs duties constitute 37 per cent of the estimated JD 497.898 million local revenues.

But the draft budget does not show any government plan to raise taxes or to cancel some of the existing tax exemptions in order to increase domestic revenues.

Furthermore, economists point out that the estimated JD 261.713 million capital expenditure is not invested in projects which would generate enough income to help cover the deficit.

Foreign aid, loans

The draft budget shows that around JD 72.656 million are allocated for the repayment of local and foreign debts. "Capital expenditure should be allocated for productive projects that would generate a steady income," Mr. Jabir said.

But in the absence of new sources of domestic revenues, he warns that the country may find itself obliged for to resort to loans from international credit institutions which have high interest rates and to give priority in spending to productive investments which could generate income.

The new draft budget estimates Arab and foreign aid at JD 253 million but did not give a clear estimate of Arab aid.

In recent years Jordan has suffered because some Arab countries have failed to fulfill their financial commitments to Jordan.

King inaugurates Alia hotel, engine overhaul workshop

By Lina Nabli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday inaugurated the Gateway Hotel of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, and an aircraft engine overhaul workshop at Queen Alia International Airport.

Speaking briefly to newsmen on the occasion the King expressed hope that Alia will maintain its high standard of service and remain as a source of pride for Jordan and the whole Arab Nation.

The Alia engine overhaul workshop, which will provide maintenance services to jet engines, is regarded as the first of its kind in the Middle East. It will cater to the needs of Alia as well as other carriers.

After unveiling a com-

memorative plaque, the King toured the various sections of the workshop and was briefed on their functions and services. The workshops have units for welding, cleaning and replacing turbines and for conducting "cell tests". Each Alia plane engine is tested once every three weeks at these workshops, according to a set programme.

Before setting up the workshops, Alia plane engines used to be sent to Europe for maintenance.

The workshop is partly financed by the Rolls Royce Company of the United Kingdom and the Lockheed Corporation of the United States.

King Hussein later formally opened the 315-room Gateway Hotel. The hotel, which cost nearly JD 9 million, will serve transit passengers travelling with Alia and other airlines as well as tourists and Jordanians alike.

Attending the opening ceremonies were Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Minister of Information Mohammad Al 'Khatib, Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid, Alia Chairman Ali Ghandour and senior officials.



His Majesty King Hussein inspects the Royal Jordanian Airlines, Alia, engine overhaul workshop at the Queen Alia International Airport in Amman Sunday (Petra photo)

Haj Hassan leaves for Arab social welfare talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan said Sunday that he will contact ministers of social affairs from Arab countries regarding their endorsement of Princess Rahmah Community Development Centre as a regional centre serving Arab countries in rural and agricultural affairs.

The minister, who was speaking before his departure for Tunis

where he will take part in the sixth meeting of Arab ministers of social affairs, said that Arab delegations to a recent meeting in Rome have approved the idea.

The centre has been set up to recruit personnel to be employed in training people from rural regions in methods to improve their social and economic standards. The centre will also help these people establish traditional handicrafts and develop farming and animal husbandry projects. The centre also provides facilities for conducting studies and research work on promoting rural regions in the Arab World.

Referring to the Tunis meeting, Mr. Haj Hassan said that the ministers will discuss the prospect of holding a general Arab conference on social welfare prior to an international conference on social welfare due to be held in Japan in the coming year. Also, the ministers will call on all Arab countries to settle their financial commitments to an Arab fund for social work and to offer more contributions for the relief of drought and famine victims in Sudan, Somalia, Mauritania and Djibouti, the minister added. Mr. Haj Hassan is accompanied by a two-member delegation.

AMPCO to buy aubergines, marrows at subsidised prices

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) will Monday begin purchasing marrows and aubergines from farmers in the Jordan Valley region at subsidised prices in implementation of government directives, according to AMPCO Director General Marwan Dudin.

Mr. Dudin said that AMPCO has set up three centres in the Jordan Valley to purchase crops from the farmers before re-marketing them here and abroad.

The three centres at Wadi Al Yabis, Arida and South Shuneh were established following directives from Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai to help farmers market their products at profitable prices and to encourage local producers to increase their production, Mr. Dudin said.

The three centres, he continued, will be open to receive any quantities of the two commodities, provided the crops are of a good enough quality to be marketed by AMPCO.

In an interview with the local press, Mr. Dudin said that AMPCO has opened a centre in Lebanon for marketing marrows and aubergines and has sent 30 lorries loaded with these two crops for marketing in Lebanon.

Expanding market outlets

AMPCO is contacting other Arab states regarding a similar arrangement, Mr. Dudin said. Among the countries which are to be sold Jordanian crops are Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Mr. Dudin added.

On Dec. 5 the Cabinet passed a decision to float the prices of all locally-produced crops and instructed AMPCO to purchase certain types of products. The Cabinet decision has had beneficial effects on the sale of produce and farmers in general, Mr. Dudin said.

He said that by purchasing the crops from farmers now AMPCO has encouraged farmers to harvest their crops again, something



Marwan Dudin

which they stopped doing when they discovered that this season's crops were so abundant that they flooded the market, forcing prices to drop sharply with negative consequences for the producers. In fact had hoped to market some of the produce in Syria but, due to the relatively warm weather in Syria, there has been no drop in production of the two commodities there and hence no demand for Jordan's crops, Mr. Dudin explained. But, he continued, when the rain comes, the Syrians are certain to start buying Jordanian crops.

HAC to meet soon

The Higher Agricultural Council (HAC) is also expected to convene shortly to review the agricultural situation in Jordan, and important decisions are expected to be passed concerning production, the distribution of water, manpower and investment in agriculture.

A report in the local press said that the council, which is chaired by Mr. Rifai, will review several working papers and will discuss a proposal for urging Arab governments to abide by contracts providing for the purchase of Jordanian agricultural produce and facilitating the passage of this produce through their territories.

Changes in land registration law have 'limited benefits' for Jordan's real estate sector

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The cabinet's recent amendment to Jordan's land registration regulations has provoked varied reactions from the public regarding the impact of the decision on the real estate sector.

The amendment exempts land owners from paying allocation fees if an expansion of municipal boundaries necessitates appropriating part of their land. Purchases of areas of land by the municipality required a certain legal adjustment initiated by the administrative departments and this was not asked for by the land owner, the amendment stated.

According to Mr. Bader Mulqi, director general of the Land and Survey Department, the amendment was introduced in order to facilitate procedures for landowners whose properties are sold to a municipality for the expansion of municipal boundaries.

The landowners in question will only have to pay for land registration forms and stamps and are exempted from paying allocation fees as their land is appropriated for "general benefit," Mr. Mulqi told the Jordan Times. He said the directives were issued as part of the cabinet's long-term policy to ease burdens and fees-paying procedures for members of the public.

During a series of interviews with the public, a number of citizens reacted coolly to the amendment as they said it does not include all land transactions in the private sector. "The new cabinet move is not likely to promote the real estate sector to a great extent

as it only exempts those whose land has been sold to the government," one real estate dealer said.

Price differences

Mr. Mohammad Abu Ayyash, who owns licensed office, added that this exemption would "not help much" as the price paid by the government is much less than the real market price. Moreover, the exemption fees are nominal compared with the difference in price for land sold privately, Mr. Abu Ayyash continued. The amendment's significance is that it would ease buying and selling procedures in the land department, he said.

Mr. Da'oud Mustafa, a real estate broker, said the amendment is expected to slightly promote the real estate sector as one of its articles allows the dissipation of land among partners and heirs to a minimum of four dunnams, instead of ten dunnams as in the old regulations. In regard to the exemption of fees, Mr. Mustafa sees no direct impact on the promotion of real estate in the Kingdom.

Mr. Mulqi noted that the amendment is only applicable to municipality land purchases. Mr. Mulqi described the new regulations as "important to expedite land registration procedures and reactivate the real estate sector."

In a recent survey, conducted by the department, the real estate sector appears to have improved considerably in terms of the departments revenues when compared to the period before the new regulations came into effect.

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Kahanism: An expression of Israel's racism, oppression

By Rachelle Marshall

On December 4, 1948, the *New York Times* published a letter from 25 prominent American Jews warning that Menachem Begin, leader of the Herut Party, was visiting the United States in order to gain support for a political movement that bore "the unmistakable stamp of a fascist party, for whom terrorism ... and misrepresentation are a means and a leader state is the goal." The signers, who included Albert Einstein, Hannah Arendt, and Sidney Hook called Herut "one of the most disturbing political phenomena of our time." They described past acts of terrorism and intimidation committed by Begin and his followers, and cautioned that despite Begin's public avowals, "It is in its actions that the terrorist party betrays its real character; from its past actions we can judge what it may be expected to do in the future."

Twenty-five years after the letter appeared, Begin resigned in the middle of his second term as Prime Minister of Israel, the idol of millions of Israelis and Americans. His legacy was a shattered Israeli economy overburdened by a bloated military; a costly and futile war in Lebanon; and dangerously heightened tensions between Israel and the Arab World. Above all, as an extremist who achieved respectability, Begin left a path open for other fanatics, other political forces, and new leaders who share his dream that in the end it will be "Hebrew arms which decide the boundaries of the Hebrew State."

One of these new leaders, Meir Kahane, is a former roughneck who built up a record of violent offenses in the United States as head of the Jewish Defence League. His undisguised racism and appeals to mob action terrified even those who once enthusiastically cheered Begin.

Kahane, who left the United States 14 years ago, and recently returned to the U.S. as an Israeli citizen who had benefited from the "Law of Return," is a member of the Knesset, and leader of a party — Kach — that, pollsters say, would have won eight to eleven seats if elections were held in Israel this year. Like Begin in 1948, Kahane came to raise

money and gain support and respectability for an extremist movement, this time one that openly advocates the expulsion of Arabs from Palestine and the imposition of a religious, fundamentalist dictatorship.

History repeated

In a noteworthy replay of history, Kahane, like Begin in 1948, has been publicly denounced by prominent American Jews. Within hours of his arrival in mid-August, twelve major national Jewish organisations issued a joint statement accusing Kahane of "a perversion of Jewish religious, ethical, and traditional values and practices." Individual leaders such as Earl Raab of the California Bay Area Jewish Community Relations Council and Ruth W. Popkin, national president of Hadassah, attacked Kahane for his racism and demagoguery. The Washington D.C. Board of Rabbis, which represents Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist rabbis, picketed Kahane's arrival with signs saying "Zionism, Yes — Kahane, No." Hyman Bookbinder, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, asserted that "Jewish leadership in Israel and the United States had said 'no' to Kahanism."

So far Kahane's tour has received relatively little coverage in either the national press or in mainstream Jewish newspapers, although several editorials in the Jewish press have issued general condemnations. One of the largest of these papers, the *Long Island Jewish World*, called him "odious." According to the *Jerusalem Post*, Jewish organisations were refusing to send representatives to debate him or appear on the same public platform with him. Obviously, they believe the less attention Kahane receives the better.

It is easy to see why American Jewish leaders wish he would disappear. Most of them have loyally supported Israeli policy toward the occupied territories, and have done their best to silence public criticism. Much to their dismay, Kahane has brought to the surface the ugly implications of that policy. He stated his argument unequivocally in a guest column for the *Northern California Jewish*

Bulletin.

"Israel can never be both a democratic and a Jewish state," he wrote. "For if a democratic state guarantees the Arab minority 'complete equality of political rights' does that not mean exactly what is said — complete and exact equality, including the right to democratically and peacefully become the majority? If people insist that the Jewish State will never go out of existence, then we must take away the democratic right of the Arabs to become the majority — even though they may do so peacefully, through babies and ballots." Kahane bluntly pointed out that "some Jews have a deep ideological problem that they cannot face. They lack the intellectual courage to choose between Judaism and Zionism on the one hand, and Western democracy on the other."

No greater Israel democracy

Not one of Kahane's official critics in America has been willing to address Kahane's claim that a Greater Israel cannot be a democratic state, or acknowledge that his argument is unassailable as long as Israel retains control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is true that a number of courageous and prominent American Jews, such as Philip Klutznick, Irving Howe, Richard Falk and Seymour Martin Lipset, have openly called for national sovereignty for Palestinians. But as Arthur Samuelson has pointed out, such Jewish critics of Israeli policy "are usually intellectuals who do not depend on the Jewish community for their livelihood or their reputation." The price for others, when they are not drowned out by Israel's lobby, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, is to be branded anti-Zionist or even anti-Semitic.

Even members of the Jewish establishment are subject to abuse if they depart from the Israeli government's position. When a delegation from the American Jewish Congress met recently with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir dismissed the AJC as a "peanut-sized" organisation and accused it

of "harmful meddling." Despite the AJC's long record of staunch support for Israel, Shamir claimed that "The world must know that Israel represents the Jewish people on Jewish problems."

As long as a majority of American Jews, or those who speak for them, give wholehearted support to whatever the Israeli government does, Kahane and his programme will pose a difficult dilemma. He can be denounced as a demagogue and rabble-rouser, but who can argue convincingly that Israel could absorb the occupied territories, with their 1.3 million Arab inhabitants, and still be a democracy? For Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the burden of military regulations, economic discrimination, vigilante terrorism, and denial of political rights, already amounts to a form of apartheid. In the brief period between August 4 and mid-September — just six short weeks — 75 Palestinians were placed in detention without trial and 18 were summarily deported. Such repression is bound to increase, along with violence and retaliation by both sides, as long as there is no progress toward a negotiated peace settlement.

Such realities are ignored by many of those who denounce Kahane. When he correctly points out that a Greater Israel cannot be both Jewish and democratic, supporters of Israeli policy dismiss him as a racist rather than acknowledge that the only solution to the dilemma he poses is Palestinian self-determination. Instead, instead of recognising Kahane as the inevitable product of Israel's relations with the Palestinians, some of his critics go so far as to blame his popularity — on the Arabs. Shamir recently claimed that "People who shout 'Kahane, Kahane' aren't against democracy. They don't want dictatorship or totalitarian rule. They're simply reacting to Arab terrorism."

Another of Kahane's critics, the director of the Israeli office of the Anti-Defamation League, blames the United States. In an op-ed column in the *New York Times* Harry Wall wrote that Kahane's growing movement "feeds off the anxieties of a beleaguered people ... By furnishing the most sophisticated weapons to the Arab

arsenal and by pressing Israel to acquiesce in ill-conceived diplomatic efforts, Washington nourishes the conditions that engendered Kahane's rise."

There to stay

A more common reaction, however, is that while Kahane is a loathsome phenomenon, he is only a passing one. As the president of Hadassah wrote: "Israel remains a model of democracy and justice ... In every society, including our own, one can find bigots and demagogues like Rabbi Kahane ... They do not, however, reflect deep-seated undemocratic tendencies in the society as a whole."

But as Adam Keller has pointed out that Kahane can no longer be considered part of the lunatic fringe in Israel. According to *New York Times* correspondent Thomas L. Friedman, "by all indications his popularity is soaring." Friedman quotes Alough Harven, associate director of the Van Leer Jerusalem Foundation as saying, "Before his election a year ago, Kahane was just an illness; now he is an epidemic." Even more ominous was a comment by Gerald Cromer, professor of criminology at Bar-Ilan University: "Kahane is beginning to be acceptable in centrist Israeli society." Harven cites the new generation of youth born after 1967 which regards the occupied territories as an integral part of Israel and accepts as natural the fact that Israeli Jews live under democracy and Israeli Arabs do not.

An equally important factor, according to Harven, is the groundwork laid by the right-wing Likud government. After Begin called the Palestinians "two-legged animals" and his Chief of Staff, Rafael Eitan, referred to them as "roaches in a bottle," Kahane's "throw the Arabs out" seems only an obvious next step. "Kahanism is the ultra-nationalist logic played out to its final conclusion," Harven said.

It is too early to tell how much support Kahane has in America. Orthodox religious groups have refrained from criticising him, and in several cities there are small organisations calling themselves Friends of Kach. In addition, the

Herut Zionists of America, who were staunch followers of Begin and now include members of the Jewish Defence League, are undoubtedly sympathetic to Kahane. In San Francisco, the Friends have only about 20 members but Herut has more than 200.

A much more important question is whether Kahane will succeed in winning over mainstream American Jews if he becomes a more powerful political force in Israel. Begin, once condemned as the butcher of Deir Yassin and the mastermind of the King David Hotel bombing, eventually became an honoured guest at Israel Bond dinners in the Jewish Diaspora. As long as the Israeli Government and its actions are considered beyond public criticism, the Jewish establishment may someday find itself having to swallow Kahane, too.

If this prospect seems dimming, and it clearly does at the moment, Jewish leadership along with other sincere supporters of Israel should begin taking preventive measures now. The first step is to face existing realities in Israel and the occupied territories and accept the necessity of making a clear choice: Israel can be a democracy or it can be a garrison state that rules by force over more than a million Palestinians and brutalises its own citizens in the process. Israel can forcibly expel the Palestinians, as Kahane urges, or crush them under a system of apartheid — solutions that would horrify the civilised world, including a large proportion of Israelis. The only other alternative is a negotiated peace settlement that guarantees Israel's security and the right of Palestinians to self-determination. Few Jewish leaders are speaking out for such a solution today, opting instead to accept existing Israeli policy and ignore its inevitable consequences. But the success of Meir Kahane may yet awaken them to the disaster Israel is headed for unless it changes direction. If so, American Jews will realise that Kahanism cannot simply be dismissed as demagoguery; it calls for hard thinking about Israel's future and the courage to support moves toward a two-state solution — Israel and Palestine political Report.

Here's to health

TUBERCULOSIS IS not the only serious disease discovered in Jordan in recent years and probably may not be the last. Only several days ago the Ministry of Health announced the discovery of bilharzia cases and said that they were on the increase in certain swampy areas of the country. In both its announcements, the ministry blamed foreign workers for carrying these two contagious diseases to Jordan; and since foreign workers will continue to arrive in the country the chance of more cases appearing is always present.

While on an inspection tour Saturday, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh announced that more and more T.B. cases are being discovered in Jordan every year and that between 1973 and 1985 a total of 6,474 cases were reported. Though the ministry has been dealing with the situation quite efficiently and taking care of these cases, the high figure and the fact that the number of cases could increase, give sufficient cause for concern. It seems that the more cases discovered, the more intensive our efforts should be to pinpoint and treat them if we are to keep the spread of such diseases to a minimum. While we do appreciate the Health Ministry's endeavours at all levels to keep Jordan a disease-free country and to promote health services for all citizens there is obviously more to be done. The ministry's plans to open more integrated health centres, to maintain campaigns for spreading health awareness and vaccinating school children against disease as well as organising mother and child care programmes should slowly help create a more health conscious public.

But it seems that more efforts are needed in view of the situation. Dr. Hamzeh's announcement that the Health Ministry will from now on require all non-Jordanians to undergo X-ray tests before employment should be regarded as another step in the right direction. If other similar measures should be taken in this endeavour, let us take them now and as soon as possible, in order to ensure a safer and healthier environment for all.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Exemplary relationship

POLITICAL and economic talks held by Jordanian and Chinese officials in Amman have reaffirmed China's firm position in favour of the Arab stand and China's calls for the convening of an international conference to find a just solution for the Palestine problem. The Chinese foreign minister emphasised his country's desire to expand its scope of economic cooperation with Jordan. The Chinese stand is positive and therefore acquires the appreciation of Jordan and Arabs at large. In fact, the stable and fruitful relationship between Jordan and China is exemplary and should lead to further understanding among peoples of the world. King Hussein's visit to China in 1983 and the Chinese president's visit to Jordan later on, have borne fruit for both sides; and the current Chinese-Jordanian talks going on in Amman are bound to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation in all fields. The Arabs cannot forget China's firm stand in support of the Arabs against the Israeli aggressors and they also appreciate Peking's neutral stand vis-a-vis the Gulf war. We hope that bridges of understanding and cooperation between the Arab nation and China will be further strengthened and yield more fruit.

Al Dustour: More U.N. resolutions

THE resolutions issued by the United Nations General Assembly on Friday were a direct expression of the international community's will for the achievement of peace based on justice in the Middle East and for ending the tragedy and sufferings of the Palestinian people. Perhaps these resolutions are the most important ever passed by the general assembly, since 1948, because they have blamed the United States and Israel for impeding the establishment of peace in the Middle East through refusing an international conference where all parties can lay down a plan for restoring peace to the area. Nearly all nations, except the U.S. and Israel as well as Canada, have welcomed the idea of holding such a conference under U.N. auspices because all world nations believe in the establishment of justice. Of course, the general assembly's resolutions are mere recommendations and they lack power for execution. But nevertheless, we should not minimise their importance and their impact. These resolutions clearly reflect the ideas of political leaders in different countries of the world and the Arabs should now try to benefit from this positive attitude and try to intensify their efforts on the international level for regaining their usurped rights.

Sawt Al Shaab: Zionist aims

ISRAEL has been trying to fish in troubled waters, whenever it has been possible for it and in any part of the world. At the same time, and for achieving its purposes, Israel, since its establishment, has been exploiting world events which can help it attain Zionist aims and objectives. It has exploited the extremist elements in the Arab World, killed a United Nations secretary general, launched wars on the Arabs and finally turned into espionage on its Western allies trying to get secrets that would help it implement its evil machinations and achieve its goals. Since its establishment, Israel has been practising all forms of terrorism and, with the help of its friends and allies in the West, succeeded in justifying all these terrorist actions and making them appear as mere reactions to acts of terror. In the past, the Zionists found allies among the Nazis to help create a situation by which Jews would seek refuge in the harbour of Zionism, which in turn would direct them to Palestine where they would help carry out Zionist activities. The Israelis continue to exploit all atmospheres of tension and all crises and disputes among nations for their own interests. The recent espionage scandal has been smoothed over simply because of the great influence the Zionists have on the United States. Israel's malpractices will never stop.

Proposed U.S. aid to Angolan rebels reopens old debate

By Barry Schveid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration's decision to ask Congress for \$15 million in secret military aid to rebels in Angola is reopening a quarter-century-old debate on the wisdom and morality of U.S. involvement in the international affairs of other nations.

Liberals are primed to fight U.S. covert aid as unwise and immoral, while Secretary of State George Shultz, travelling in Europe, has urged allied governments to drop their "tactical differences" with the United States and support the controversial policy.

The Angolan request is due to go to the Senate and House Intelligence Committees during the Christmas recess later this month. CIA officials and Chester Crocker, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, already have begun briefing the committees in secret.

While the U.S. plan surfaced in the capital, Shultz was in London, lecturing a British-American group — and, by extension, the West European allies — on the correct mix of "power and diplomacy."

"Diplomacy does not depend on good will alone," Shultz said in an appeal for support. "It does not depend on good intentions alone. Sometimes it depends on single-mindedness and will."

Referring to U.S. diplomatic efforts to end the war in Angola, he said "diplomacy is unlikely to work unless there is effective resistance."

Translation: Ship arms to the anti-Marxist rebels there to give diplomacy a helping hand.

The administration's interest in covert aid extends beyond Angola. In Nicaragua, U.S. military aid is viewed as possibly the only way to prevent the collapse of anti-Marxist forces known as the Contras.

"If there is an enormous influx of Soviet helicopters and Cuban pilots, it's going to be very, very tough for them (the Contras) to survive," Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams told the Associated Press recently.

Only non-lethal U.S. aid to the Contras is permitted now.

"If it's all right for the Cubans to fight in Nicaragua, why isn't it all right to fight in El Salvador? At what point do you draw the line and say 'now look, we're going to respond to this'?" Abrams said.

Twenty-five years ago, Senator J. William Fulbright, then chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, tried to talk President John F. Kennedy out of going ahead with the covert American-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

The Arkansas Democrat said, "to give this activity even covert support is of a piece with the hypocrisy and cynicism for which the United States is constantly denouncing the Soviet Union in the United Nations and elsewhere."

Fulbright's sentiments were echoed last March by Republican representative Jim Leach who introduced legislation to prohibit private groups from funding insurgents. It lost.

"In embracing these fit-for-far policies," he said, "we've lowered ourselves into the gutter with the violence-prone revolutionaries we so loudly condemn, and in the process undercut the moral imprimatur upon which U.S. policy is based."

Back in Washington, meanwhile, a senior State Department official defended U.S. covert aid as consistent with America's appeal to all sides in the southern African wars to negotiate instead of taking "the military option."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, explained: "We are not negotiating with Angola and with South Africa. We, in the mediating position, want to have the maximum amount of tools to work with."

In other words, the United States can provide weapons to one side since it is not really part of the conflict. Besides, the official said, the Soviet Union has sent 1,200 advisers and \$2 billion in military assistance to the Marxist government in Luanda over two years.

The U.S. strategy is to threaten to arm the Anti-Communist National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in order to induce the Angolan government to accept a U.S.-backed plan for a phased withdrawal of an alleged 35,000 Cuban troops from the African country.

Earlier this year, the Clark Amendment, which had barred covert U.S. aid to Angolan rebels for a decade, was repealed.

Representative Matthew E. McHugh, an opposition Democrat who is a member of the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, rallied more than 100 house members to sign a letter last month to President Ronald Reagan opposing U.S. military intervention in Angola.

Dramatic reshuffle of China's leadership — out with the aged, in with the young

By Xy Xuejiang

IF SIX years of age matters significantly anywhere, it might be in the aged Chinese leadership where many veterans well into their 70s and 80s work strenuously to run the world's most populous country.

That is one reason why the Chinese Communist Party, the nation's ruling party, called a special national conference in September to reshuffle and reduce the age of its leadership.

In what turned out to be a smooth and peaceful transfer of power, 10 veterans averaging age 78 retired from the Party's Politburo, while six younger leaders were added to trim six years off the highest leading body's previous average age of 74. Also, 64 new members replaced as many older ones on the Party's Central Committee, making it four years younger on average.

"The succession of the young to the old," said the Party's top leader Deng Xiaoping to the closing session of the conference, "is an organisational guarantee for the continuity of the Party's policies."

The problem of older leadership has become particularly acute in recent decades in China, as founders of the People's Republic reached their most senior years.

"If we ... led the old and ailing stand in the way of young people who are energetic and able," he said earlier, "not only will the four modernisations fail but the Party and state will face a mortal trial and perhaps perish."

The problem of older leadership has become particularly acute in recent decades in China, as founders of the People's Republic reached their most senior years.

As a 64-year-old party, the Chinese Communist Party led the Chinese people through several wars in 28 years to the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. In the long years of struggle, a large number of outstanding professional revolutionaries emerged. Their experience and pre-

older, their pace slowed down and gave rise to, among other things, reduced efficiency. Since the country's official tenure system allowed lifelong posts, high-ranking officials could not be dismissed from their positions for reasons of age or health. So, more officials, usually veterans, were added to leading bodies to help run the administration. This, in turn, slowed the administrative process.

The problem grew in the late 1970s as China began to push its fast-paced programme to modernise its industry, agriculture, defence and science and technology. In 1979, the party and government made up their minds to find a solution to this knotty problem.

In April 1982 the government instituted a retirement system for officials — the first ever in China. The party soon after adopted a new constitution that requires its officials to retire according to the government's guidelines when they reach the age limit for retirement.

Under this system, retirement age is 60 for men and 55 for

of China's Labour and Personnel Ministry.

But change was also needed at the highest leading level, where aged leaders still outnumbered others. In the Party's 343-member Central Committee, for instance, members above age 65 accounted for 38 per cent of the total, while people below age 50 made only less than 10 per cent. In the 27-member politburo there was only one member below 60.

A readjustment of the leadership, therefore, was needed and had to be done tactfully under

Though it had little turmoil or drama, this historic leadership reshuffle has a lot more meaning than merely lowering the age in the leading bodies.

the stabilising influence of the country's prestigious veterans.

"It is necessary to make the readjustment now," said Zhu Mu, spokesman for the party's special conference. "If we try to lower this average age in the party's leadership at the national congress scheduled for 1987, we will have to wait for another two years, and then readjustment will have to be made on a still wider scale."

Such a shake-up of leadership is rare in today's world, particularly when viewed in light that coups and political unrest often accompany power succession. But Chinese officials say it went rather smoothly and peacefully. Veterans stepping down uncomplainingly, new faces emerging happily on the political stage, and people watching the peaceful reshuffle in quietness — that seemed to be all there was to it.

The only drama came when 131 veterans collectively submitted three public letters to the conference requesting permission to resign from the Party's three important leading organs before the final decisions had been announced. This action, the first ever in the party's 64-year history, not only disclosed who would step down from where, but also helped make the transfer of power smoother.

"We regard it as our bound duty to the party to implement this strategic decision through our action," said the letter submitted by 64 outgoing Party Central Committee members, "so that the life-long tenure in leading posts will be abolished and a system of constant renewal of members of the leading organs will be established."

Though it had little turmoil or drama, this historic leadership reshuffle has a lot more meaning than merely lowering the age in the leading bodies.

It reveals that China has set up at the highest level a successful three-echelon leadership model, made up of the old, the middle-aged and the young. In the government's plan, the first echelon consists of the most experienced, veteran leaders, the second of proven administrators, and the third of those younger people being trained and prepared to take

over leading positions in the near future. Qualifications for the future leadership include college education, specialised training, and adherence to the party's principles. The new carefully-balanced lineup will undoubtedly ensure the continuity and development of China's current flexible and open-door economic and political policies.

As more young people join the leadership, the educational level in the leading bodies has risen greatly. Of the 64 new Party Central Committee members, for example, 49 have a college education. The most outstanding representatives are Hu Jili, a 36-year-old engineer by training who speaks fluent English; Tian Jiyun, 56, a skilled economic policy maker who is one of the authors of the country's bold blue-print for economic reform; and Li Peng, 57, a noted energy expert who oversees the country's nuclear programme and energy policy. Specialists and proven administrators like these, it is widely believed, will soon become mainstays of a leadership that is striving to push China into the ranks of the world's economic powers by the end of this century.

The resignation of the revered veterans, marks the most important achievement in China's efforts to abolish lifelong tenure and sets a valuable example for the country's reform of officialdom that will soon go down to the grass-roots. "If the decorated founders of the People's Republic could step down, why can't we?" This will surely be an important question asked by would-be aged cadres for a long time to come — China features.

stige promoted them in the early period of the republic to leading positions in the party, the government and the military.

In their prime time of life, these veterans worked energetically and imaginatively. But as they became

million veteran officials have retired from active service, leaving many vacant posts for younger people. In 1984, more than 100,000 young officials took over leading positions above county level, according to a vice minister

Race to everywhere: Two world travellers are neck and neck

By John Koton

CHICAGO—Parke Thompson of Akron, Ohio, dips a spoon into a bowl of vanilla ice cream and rattles off the itinerary for his next "vacation": Colombia, Fernando de Noronha off the Brazilian coast, San Andres in the Caribbean, Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific, New Zealand and South Korea.

Along the way, the 67-year-old lawyer will sleep in a "junco" hut, hitch a ride on an ocean freighter and try to sneak across the border into North Korea, a country now off limits to sightseers from the U.S.

Mr. Thompson is a competitive traveler, someone who collects places the way others save baseball cards and stamps. His hobby has made him one of the leaders in a race of global proportions. He is trying to become the first person ever to visit all 308 countries on Earth.

Who says there are 308 countries? The Travelers Century Club of Los Angeles does. Its total includes independent territories by United Nations standards — the U.N. has a mere 159 members — but the club's total is the one that matters in this article because the club is refereeing the competition currently led by Mr. Thompson.

"It's kind of a crazy goal, I know," Mr. Thompson says, "but once I get going I just couldn't stop." His travels so far have taken him to 299 of the 308 places, 90 of the world's 120 largest cities and 48 of the 50 state capitals in the U.S. He has carried his luggage across a barren expanse between Pakistan and India, hoisted through the ice around Ant-

arctica and caught the last flight out of Beirut before the 1973 Mideast war broke out. His picture appears in the Guinness Book of World Records right next to a photo he took of mudmen in New Guinea.

The battle for sightseeing supremacy, though, is far from over. Mr. Thompson's closest rival, John Clouse, a lawyer in Evansville, Ind., is on a five-week voyage to pick up three remote islands in the Atlantic. If successful, the trip will raise the 60-year-old Mr. Clouse's total to 300, one more than Mr. Thompson now has.

Visiting twice as many lands as the U.S. has diplomatic relations with isn't easy. Competitors usually can build up their totals quickly at first, but the task gradually gets harder. Someone who traversed all of Europe, the Mediterranean, Asia and South America still wouldn't have seen 100 nations. And some places require years of planning to reach.

It took Mr. Thompson nearly a decade to persuade an African shipping company to take him on its quarterly voyage to St. Helena, the South Atlantic island where Napoleon spent his last years in exile. Mr. Clouse had to go on a 10,000-mile trip to visit Bouvet, another South Atlantic island, near Antarctica, but the sea was so rough that the boat couldn't land.

Mr. Clouse was thwarted. Because they have to set foot in out-of-the-way places, competition travelers like Mr. Thompson and Mr. Clouse are likely to run up against such obstacles as hostile local authorities and strange diseases. Returning home from a trip to Zambia in 1978, Mr. Clouse stumbled a series of doctors

when his heart began causing peculiar readings on electrocardiogram tests. One physician theorized that he might have an ailment called devil's grip, another diagnosed it as African sleeping sickness and still another thought Mr. Clouse had had a heart attack. The problem eventually went away without treatment.

"Anyone who thinks this is easy," Mr. Clouse says, "hasn't been on the 26-hour bus trip to Ouagadougou," the capital of Burkina Faso. Another uncomfortable moment came when he was arrested in the Soviet Union for taking pictures of what turned out to be a military installation. "Part of it is being willing to just go with the flow," he says.

One of the passports to success is having more than one passport. That's because some countries will deny entry to someone who has visited one of their enemies.

Mr. Clouse estimates he has spent more than \$500,000 on travel in the 28 years it has taken him to reach his current total. Mr. Thompson won't say how much he has spent. Both men consider themselves lucky because, as their own bosses — Mr. Clouse has his own law firm and Mr. Thompson is a partner in one — they can take large blocks of vacation time each year.

They also can rely on the network of contacts built up by the Travelers Century Club, whose members include the only man to have flown over the North and South Poles twice, a woman who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro at age 70 and a couple who logged 143,716 miles driving a beat-up car around the world. To

get into the club, you have to visit 100 "countries." The youngest member is Mr. Clouse's five-year-old son, Chauncey, who has been to 111.

The members report on such matters as what airline flies to Kiribati in the west-central Pacific (Air Tanguar), what accommodations exist on Robinson Crusoe Island off Chile (two motels) and how long it takes to obtain an exit visa on the Indian Ocean island of Mayotte (one club member said he had to wait 20 hours in a colonel's office).

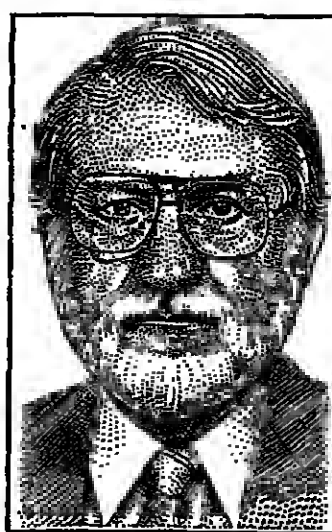
Advance trips

The club is also responsible for keeping its list of countries up to date. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Clouse try to anticipate additions by going to places before they are listed. On his current trip, Mr. Clouse is visiting five of the South African black homelands in case they are declared independent.

Traveling around the world apparently doesn't require a good sense of direction. When a visitor recently asked Mr. Thompson about the best route to his home from the airport, he had to put his wife on the phone to answer the question.

Imagination, however, can be important. Mr. Clouse was able to count North Korea in his total a few years ago by slipping under the old Korean-peace-talks conference table at Panmunjom and briefly entering territory that is technically North Korea.

Their wide travels have made Mr. Thompson and Mr. Clouse local celebrities. Several times a year Mr. Thompson shows some of his more than 90,000 slides to civic groups. Mr. Clouse was the subject of a major feature story in



John Clouse

the Evansville paper under the headline "Man on the Go."

Back to Botswana?

"All my friends think I'm loony," says Mr. Clouse, who also raised eyebrows around town a few years ago when he defended the local massage parlor in a criminal case. "They're always saying, 'Hey, John, I just heard Botswana changed its name. You better hop on the next plane and get over there.'" A name change doesn't really require a return visit, but people will have their little jokes.

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Clouse both figure it will take them two



Parke Thompson

more years before they reach the magic 308. Who gets there first, they add, will probably depend mostly on luck. Mr. Thompson still has the problem of mounting an expedition to the South Pole, while Mr. Clouse has to figure a way into Albania, which doesn't welcome Americans. A club member trying to swim ashore there recently was shot at.

Mr. Clouse expressed the feelings of both men when he says he will be glad either way when the race is over. "Then we'll finally be able to go on a civilized vacation," he says. "The first thing I'll probably do is go see Disneyland." — Wall Street Journal.

Randa Habib's Corner

Mounting threat

MASSSES of people in the Jerash Governorate are leaving their villages and their agricultural lands. The reason is simple: The presence of a nearby garbage dumping ground.

A reader from that part of the Kingdom sent me a long letter on behalf of his fellow villagers together with a photo of a big dumping ground. At five hundred metres from Kfeiy, in the governorate of Jerash, a big field surrounded by the villages of Oneibe, Hazleh, Rashtaleh, A'ara and Riasheh, is being used as a dumping ground for garbage. The field which initially covered only two dunams is growing as more and more garbage piles up.

The garbage has now reached the boundaries of the villages, which are inhabited by over 5,000 people. Bad smell and squadrions of flies are only one result of the proximity of that garbage field. Even more, this dumping ground has become a refuge for stray dogs.

Residents of the area are concerned about their health as well as the future of their villages. They feel threatened by this unhygienic situation and believe that their area will soon become epidemic.

"Why are the authorities not solving this very sad and depressing problem," the letter asked. It is unfortunate that the attention is mostly concentrated on Amman and other big cities of the country. Villages got their problems too. We must also afford our villages the attention they deserve if we don't want them to become deserted.

Wild boys strip act hits West Germany

By Yvonne Esterhazy

Reuter

FRANKFURT, West Germany — Jimmy writhes on the floor, face distorted, a chain taut around his neck. Standing above him a blond-haired youth clad in scanty black leather underwear wields a whip.

"Give him one." Screams a woman's voice in the audience. This male strip show, billed "Wild Boys — Sexclusive for women," is the talk of Frankfurt. Monika, the wild boys trainer, claims she has hit on a market gap that not even the city's sleazy red light district can fill.

Male strip shows may be commonplace in some other countries, but they are the exception in West Germany, she said.

Against a background of stomping disco rhythms at the "Monte Carlo Dance Palace" in a barren industrial estate west of Frankfurt some 35 women have come to watch the show.

Thick winter snow may have sapped the curiosity of some customers, since before the sudden winter weather the boys had packed in audiences of up to 400 women for each performance.

Monika, who used to run a play school and prefers not to be named in full, believes it is time the West German woman came

out of her shell.

"We want to offer women something, but it has to be gentle ... aesthetic, not pornographic," she explained.

The show starts with obvious embarrassment among the audience of secretaries, mostly in their early 20s.

The five wild boys, dressed in long white waiters' aprons, parade across the stage to the accompaniment of nervous giggles. Only as the five turn their back on the girls to reveal a row of naked behinds is the ice broken.

The five were recruited from 27 hopefuls who answered an advertisement Monika placed in a local newspaper. Most were invited to audition.

"We weren't looking for a blond Adonis, but young lads who could move effortlessly to music," Monika said.

When 21-year-old salesman Frank, who is five feet three inches tall, roars across the stage half naked on a powerful motorbike the girls go wild.

"He's so sweet, you just want to take him home," said one secretary.

Frank, who has also stripped in front of male audiences, rejoices in the female enthusiasm. For him height is unimportant. "I accept myself as God created me," he said.

2 Israelis invade the cinema business, produce bloody 'anti-violence' movies

AS FAST as other people in the cinema business slough off their assets and slam the cash into telecommunications or something, so the two men behind the Cannon Group are busy acquiring silver screens, film rights, and directors' services, amid claims — their own — that they now make more films than any other major Hollywood studio.

Menachem Golan and Yoram Globus are Israelis who barged their way into Hollywood in 1979, buying up the tottering Cannon studios, then swept into Britain in 1980 with the purchase of the classic cinema chain and its 130 screens. At the moment they are the likely buyers — with the British Heron Corporation for the Thorn-EMI entertainment divisions, its 105 cinemas, film and video library, and a handful of film production plants.

If successful, they would end up owning the highest cinema chain in Britain, though this would not necessarily benefit the long-suffering British cinema-goer, to whom the big chains have administered most of the deadly kisses of the last 20 years.

But Menachem Golan, Cannon chairman, says not: "If you go to a Cannon theatre, you get better sound, nicer carpets, the toilets smell less." It's one of his many proud boasts.

The others are mainly to do with the film-making side of Cannon. Now it has to be said that Cannon has built up an unrivalled reputation as the maker of some truly awful films. It has brought us Lemon Popsicle, Exterminator,

Space Vampires, Ninja and — greatest of all — Death Wish III, which will come out in January and which had Golan's wife clutching her stomach throughout its first screening.

These are sometimes referred to as Cannon-schlock, or as reaching the Golan depths. Golan, fifty-five, permanently jet-setted, who formed a partnership with his younger cousin Globus in Israel in the sixties to produce a variety of films (including O'Vey, My Son is Gay), is wholly unrepentant: "As well as action exploitation films, Cannon are doing the highest quality films in the world in the highest numbers."

The new product list at Cannon is, putting it mildly, a catholic one. Jean-Luc Godard has been roped in to do King Lear. Placido Domingo has just finished shooting Otello. Hanna Schygulla will star in Storm In Venice. In December King Solomon's Mines with Richard Chamberlain opens in London. George Segal reveals Who's In The Closet the month after; in February a film called Delta Force, directed by Golan and starring Lee Marvin and Chuck Norris, will be on view.

This last one is interesting; Golan describes it as a "fictionalised" account of the TWA hijacking. "I'm ehanging history a little bit. I got so involved with the Entebbe raid and the film about it that I wanted all the time to do a film dealing with the anti-terrorist force." It will be somewhat more violent than the real thing.

Golan (who changed his name

to that of the occupied Syrian Heights when Ben Gurion was urging Israelis to adopt patriotic monikers) has adhered to a passionate love of film since his childhood. In that sense, he resembles the Hollywood moguls of the past — ardent cineastes rather than committee accountants.

"I prefer a bad Western to a good play," he says. "In a motion picture you re-create human emotions with the environment, which means it is the nearest art to God-like creation. The cinema is the medium of the masses. Since Greek drama, people went to enjoy themselves in a gathering place. That can't be a toilet or a bedroom?"

But love of film doesn't mean that Cannon spend a lot on their products. "It's very difficult," says Golan dismissively, "to spend 16 million dollars on a movie." The average cost of a Cannon film is \$5 million. But this won't apply to Superman IV, whose rights Cannon bought earlier this year, nor to Over the Top, with Stallone, which starts shooting in January.

But the main fault which reviewers — and audiences — find in too many Cannon productions has little to do with cost, and a deal to do with rush, carelessness, too much control in the hands of two men who are permanently in flight between Los Angeles, Europe, and Tel Aviv.

For all the catholicity of the products, the hiring of directors like Cassavetes and Altman, it's hard to see how two men, personally supervising the creation of a European cinema chain, the

production of films all over the world, the expenditure — for instance — of \$3 million on British cinemas alone, and, so it is said, the minutiae of the expenses of their remarkably small number of employees, can ever build up a body of great films.

Cannon — never mind the doubling of film distribution revenue between the first six months of 1984 to 1985 — have yet to produce a real smasheroo of a picture. Which might be a good point at which to return to Death Wish III and the phone call in which Mr. Golan described it, in his own words, to an interested party in L.A. "It has a rape in it, like you've never seen! It's very strong; like Michael (Winner) said, its World War III! It's the most violent movie I've ever seen. Don't misunderstand me, it's an anti-violence film. It may even get good reviews. I don't know. My wife was holding her stomach, but she sat through it! Fantastic movie!"

Operating a movie company in the modern world is described in combat terms as well: "We grew very fast. When you go to battle fast, you have a lot of casualties. But now we can easily claim we are the best and biggest American movie company."

As yet, it's not finally clear whether, as we film-goers sit in revamped Cannon cinemas, watching Cannon screen fodder, this best and biggest company is going to be remembered for its King Lears and Golden Bear winners like Love Streams, or for an infinity of Death Wishes — The Guardian.

Is there weather on Venus?

By Professor V. Moroz

AFTER THE encounter with Venus Interplanetary probes Vekas 1 and 2 have been continuing their path towards Halley's comet. However, scientists have gathered in a rich "harvest." They have started processing and interpreting the data obtained in the first stage of the mission. We would like to tell of one of Venus's wonderful features — its cloud cover.

Clouds cover the entire planet as a solid layer without any breaks. The descent modules of Vekas 1 and 2 carried several instruments to measure the chemical composition of particles in Venusian clouds, their size and height distribution. Generally speaking, studies into the cloud cover are of great interest because along with atmospheric gases it determines the processes of the absorption and scattering of radiation in the atmosphere. The cloud over particles take part in the complex chain of chemical transformations. It is difficult to understand this chain without knowing the particles' composition.

Analysis of the results of some of the delicate measurements conducted by ground-based telescopes more than ten years ago led to the hypothesis that particles consisting of the aqueous solution of sulphuric acid prevail in the upper layers of Venus's clouds. Then the infrared spectrometer carried by Vekas 1 systematically recorded clearcut bands belonging to sulphuric acid.

However, remote measurements did not allow us to obtain data on the deep layers of clouds.

Direct measures of sulphuric acid content in the particles of the cloud cover were performed from the landers of Vekas 1 and 2 by the Sigma-3 device. It combines a miniature chemical reactor, which decomposes sulphuric acid into sulphur dioxide and water vapour, with a highly sensitive gas chromatograph measuring their quantity.

The results of measurements from Vekas 1 and 2 have shown that in Venusian clouds at altitudes of 63 to 48 kilometres on average about a milligram of sulphuric acid is contained per cubic metre of the atmosphere. Besides, measurements of sulphuric acid content in Venus's clouds have been made by a mass-spectrometer with an aerosol collector in the joint experiment conducted by the Institute of Geochemistry and Analytical Chemistry (USSR Academy of Sciences), France's Aeronomy Services and the French Centre for the Protection of the Environment. The results are in good agreement with Sigma-3 data.

It could be supposed that on Venus sulphuric acid plays approximately the same role as water in terrestrial clouds. However, it was found out that the situation is much more complicated. In the course of another experiment it was established that Venusian clouds contain also sulphur, chlorine and apparently phosphorus. Phosphorus was detected for the

first time. Besides, it seems that a portion of sulphur is contained in Venus's clouds also in the free state, forming particles which paint the clouds yellowish.

The absorption band typical of free gaseous sulphur was observed by an ultraviolet spectrometer which operated on Vekas. This was another joint experiment conducted by Soviet and French scientists. Detailed data on the concentration of particles different in size as a function of height were obtained from Vekas by a special device which can record individual particles passing through its field of vision — a photo-electric aerosol spectrometer. Another device, along with the independent registration of particles, measured the light-scattering properties of the cloud medium and also natural radiation in the atmosphere. It is worth noting that the landing took place in the night-time but the intensity of radiation was high. It seems that the Venusian surface is a source of such radiation. This is the short-wave tail of the planet's thermal radiation. This is the short-wave tail of the planet's thermal radiation.

Analysis of the data obtained has shown that in Venus's clouds small particles tenths of a micrometre (micron) in size prevail. If one takes into account all particles more than 0.4 micron in diameter, their number per cubic centimetre does not exceed several hundred. By the terrestrial yardstick Venus's clouds are a thin fog. Their concentration is maximum

in two layers (tiers) three to five kilometres wide situated at altitudes of about 50 and 58 kilometres.

Methodologically simpler (than the counting of particles) measurements of light-scattering properties of the cloud medium were carried out earlier several times beginning with Vekas 9 and 10 in 1975. They have shown that the optical density sharply drops when the space probe reaches altitudes below 48-49 kilometres. Vekas did not find a sharply pronounced boundary at this height: The optical density preserved its considerable value approximately up to the altitude of 35 kilometres.

Thus, we have encountered a new fact of serious changes in the characteristics of the cloud cover embracing the planet's vast areas: The distance between the landing sites of Vekas 1 and Vekas 2 is about 1,500 kilometres, but results obtained are similar. It is probable that such changes are indirectly linked with some stormy events in the planet's life, for example, with volcanic eruptions. Or perhaps we simply encountered the phenomenon called weather on Earth. The conventional models of Venus's atmosphere so far do not contain such a concept but nature is always more complex than models.

Scientists are to work hard on analysis of the data obtained. This work is now in full swing along with intensive preparations for the next stage of Vekas' mission — the encounter with Halley's comet — Právda.

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Leconte wins his first tennis title in Australia

SYDNEY (R) — Frenchman Henri Leconte stormed to his first championship victory in Australia Sunday, defeating Kelly Evernden of New Zealand 6-7, 6-2, 6-3 in the final of the New South Wales Open Tennis Tournament.

An awed Kelly claimed after the two-hour match that the brilliant left-hander was "unbeatable" when on form.

"I've played Jimmy Connors and Boris Becker but I never felt so helpless as I did out there today," he said. "I felt I was in the match the whole time against those guys but against Henri I felt I had no prayer."

Leconte, 22, the fifth seed and the first Frenchman to win the New South Wales title, started slowly in the first set but then switched into overdrive.

"It was the best I have ever played in those last two sets," he said.

Evernden, who plays with one lung after a near fatal car accident eight years ago, took the first set by winning the tiebreak eight points to six but then watched a run-

ning Leconte race to victory.

"When he plays well he's unbeatable," Evernden said. "In the first game of the third set when he broke me I hit four great serves and he hit four clean winners past me. I did not even get within 10 feet of the ball."

Leconte, who now qualifies in 15th place for the rich Masters Tournament in New York next month, notched his first grass court title when he broke Evernden for the match in the ninth game of the final set.

It was his second Grand Prix title of the year, the other being a smaller event in Nice.

Leconte, ranked 20th in the world, said he felt ill in the stomach during the first set. "I asked for some pills to be brought out to me and after the pills it was un-

believable, I played just great," he said.

Evernden, 24, took the first set after he looked certain to lose it in the tiebreak when a double fault at 4-5 gave Leconte two set points.

But a tremendous serve followed by a flashing backhand cross court pass gave him a set point at 7-6 which he wrapped up when Leconte belted a forehand lung.

The Frenchman then broke Evernden's service in the third and seventh games of the second set to level the match and scored another break in the opening game of the third.

Evernden, who joined the professional ranks in September last year, depends for much of his game on his serve. In the first set it worked almost without error but when it began to falter, Leconte was merciless.

In the doubles final Nigeria's Ndika Odizor and David Dowling of the United States beat the Australian pair, Brod Dyke and Wally Masur, 6-4, 7-6.



Mary Lou Retton

Mexico beats Hungary in World Cup warm-up

TOLUCA, Mexico (Agencies) — Mexico scored a convincing 2-0 victory over Hungary to win a four-nation World Cup warm-up tournament.

Playing with speed and skill, the Mexicans overcame the visitors with goals from Carlos Hermosillo in the fifth minute and Captain Tomas Boy in the 68th.

After beating South Korea and Algeria, two other World Cup qualifiers, Mexico staged their best performance against Hungary. The Hungarians proved dangerous in attack but were ably contained by a sure Mexican defence.

It was a comeback of sorts for the Mexicans after four months of reverses that included losses during tours of Asia and Africa.

More than 32,000 fans packed La Bombonera Stadium, refurbished and renamed Toluca-86 for the World Cup, which opens in Mexico City on May 31.

The Mexicans dominated the play for the first 20 minutes. The Hungarians, reacting slowly, gradually took and held the offensive up to the half time, but they could not penetrate Mexico's solid defence.

The teams deadlocked after that until Boy scored the second goal and Mexico retook the initiative and held it to the end.

Hungary played its usual fast game and was effective at intercepting the ball, but the Mexicans were able — sometimes painfully — to blunt a succession of Hungarian counterattacks.

Goalkeeper Pablo Laros did outstanding work, including what looked like two dead-certain shots by Hungary during the second half.

Diszi also stood out in the Hungarian Defence, including a two-handed rejection of a powerful free kick by Boy in the 69th minute, after Javier Aguirre was fouled.

The match was played at midday in sunny and cool winter weather. But Toluca's high altitude began to tell on the Hungarians towards the middle of the second half, when they also lost three chances to even the score with free kicks.

Olympic gymnastics champion puts commercial success down to luck

By Jack Cavanaugh
Reuter

NEW YORK — At the age of 17, she has become one of the United States' best-known television faces, hawking products ranging from breakfast cereal to batteries.

In the process, Olympic Gymnastics Champion Mary Lou Retton is becoming a very wealthy woman.

But the American sweetheart insists neither her fame — nor her rapidly growing bank account — has changed her in the slightest. Retirement is far from her thoughts and she maintains she has been training for, and is looking forward to, the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Retton owes her commercial success to an effervescent personality, seemingly boundless energy and a flashing smile.

More importantly, she is indebted to the gold medal she won in the individual overall competition at last year's Los Angeles Games.

Before her admission to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame along with nine other American gold medalists dating from the 1900 games, Retton said of her commercial success: "I was the lucky one from the last games."

Track star Carl Lewis, another of those admitted, was expected to reap more lucrative commercial endorsements than any other U.S.

athlete after duplicating Jesse Owens' feat of winning four gold medals.

But while Lewis' appeal has waned since the Olympics, Retton's has blossomed and she has been criticised for "over-commercialising" herself by endorsing so many products.

It is virtually impossible to watch American television for an hour or so without Retton turning up, extolling the merits of a variety of products.

Asked if she were in effect "cashing in" on her gold medal, the diminutive gymnastics star smiled and said:

"I never knew it would happen, and I certainly didn't plan it. I actually turn down far more commercial offers than I accept. If I don't think they're appropriate for me, I don't accept them."

Though she is represented by a marketing firm — and indeed was surrounded by three agents at a cocktail party preceding the admission ceremonies at the Grand Hyatt Hotel — Retton insisted that she herself decided which products to endorse.

"I try to strike a nice balance between the commercial work and my training," she said. "And many of the companies even send crews to Houston to shoot the commercials so as not to interrupt my training."

Retton, who will turn 18 on Jan. 29, is the youngest athlete ever

elected to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame.

But she has not competed since last May and was criticised for not taking part in November's World Championships in Montreal. But contrary to reports, she says she has remained in training.

"I work out every day," she said. "Even when I'm travelling, I keep in shape by doing calisthenics and running on the spot in my hotel room."

Others elected to the Hall of Fame were:

Edwin Moses, winner of 105 straight races and winner of the 400 metres hurdles title at the 1976 and 1984 Olympics.

Greg Louganis, double diving gold medalist at Los Angeles.

Wyomia Tyus, the only woman to retain the Olympic 100 metres title (1964 and 1968).

Alvin Kramenzlein, the first athlete to win four gold medals (1900).

Sugar Ray Leonard, winner light-welterweight gold in 1976 Olympics who later captured world welterweight and junior-middleweight titles.

Patricia McCormick, the only competitor to win both diving titles in two consecutive Olympics (1952 and 1956).

Ralph Boston, one of the few Americans to win medals of every colour in one event (gold in 1960, silver in 1964 and bronze in 1968 in the long jump).

Maleeva wins Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) — Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria, playing the longest match in her professional career, struggled to a 7-6, 3-6, 7-5 victory over Bonnie Gadusek of the United States Sunday and won the \$300,000 Pan Pacific Open Tennis for the second straight year.

The 18-year-old Maleeva needed 2 hours, 43 minutes before ending the battle of long baseline rallies with two consecutive points of chasing Gadusek wide to her right and then blasting the ball into the other corner.

Maleeva pocketed \$42,000 and Gadusek, of Largo, Florida, took home \$22,000 from Japan's richest women's tennis tournament, a Virginia Slims series event.

The fourth-seeded Gadusek, displaying fine ground strokes,

broke No. 3 seed Maleeva's serve in the third game and went on to lead 4-2 and 40-love on Maleeva's serve. But Maleeva saved that game and eventually caught up at 5-5. She capitalised on some errors by Gadusek for her 7-2 victory in the tiebreaker.

Gadusek rallied with more powerful ground strokes and took the second set on the indoor carpet court of the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

In the third set, the 22-year-old Gadusek doublefaulted three times and Maleeva twice as each broke service three times in the first six games.

Serving at 5-6 and trailing 15-30, Gadusek came up with a service winner, but then Maleeva unleashed her match-winning crosscourt sharpshooting, and leaped

up in jubilation.

It was Maleeva's first victory of the season.

Maleeva said, "I still could not believe that I won but I was so happy to defend my title. There was so much pressure during the game. Gadusek played very well. I was determined to win the match and that's why I could win. My ground strokes and serves were very good today."

She said she did not remember how much time her longest previous pro match had taken, but that this was the longest.

Gadusek told reporters, "I played very well. Maybe I should use more drop shots. It was a long match but I was not tired at all. I was disappointed at not winning the game but I was not disappointed in my game today. I hope to improve my net play before competing in a tournament in Washington in January."

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The last date for receipt of the above tender was originally stipulated as 31.12.1985. Several requests have been received from prospective bidders to defer the closing date.

In deference to the wishes of the prospective bidders Aqaba Railway Corporation has since decided to extend the closing date beyond 31.12.1985. The notification about the revised closing date will follow.

Prospective bidders are advised to withhold submission of their tenders in the meanwhile.

Mardi Qatamin
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'Days of gravy train are over'

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Arab states which flourished in an unprecedented oil boom have slid into recession as governments are forced to rein in spending.

With a sharp fall in oil revenues, major industrial projects have been shelved, real estate prices have tumbled, some foreign companies have packed up and hundreds of thousands of expatriate workers have gone home.

Few economists predict an upturn until the oil market recovers, and they do not expect that for several years.

The five-year Iran-Iraq war has also undermined Gulf economies — with no end in sight there either.

Many government leaders publicly welcome the slowdown, to give the economies a chance to cool off, to separate strong companies from the weak and to encourage private enterprise.

But despite efforts to reduce dependence on oil, "black gold" remains overwhelmingly the main source of revenue and the engine of the economy.

"The government is the principal spender here, and almost all projects, big or small, housing schemes and the like, depend on what the government pumps into the market," said Mr. Kamal Saleh, director-general of Qatar's chamber of commerce.

Saudi Arabia, the most powerful economic force in the region, has slashed spending by over 25 per cent while its revenue has dropped by more than half in the past three years.

The desert kingdom's revenue was down to \$47 billion in fiscal

1984-85 — some two-thirds of it from oil.

"The days of the gravy train are over," said an American working for the Saudi state oil organisation Petromin.

Several governments have dipped into reserves to finance budget deficits and keep spending up, but most have cut down.

Development spending in Kuwait's 1985-86 budget is down 14.6 per cent.

Federal expenditure in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) fell by 6.8 per cent in 1984.

"Since 1984, projects which are not deemed essential for the country have been deferred," said Mr. Juana Salem Al Dhahiri, finance undersecretary of the UAE emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Projects scrapped or shelved include two oil refineries in Saudi Arabia at over \$2 billion, an \$825 million expansion of Kuwait's main Shuwaik port and a \$400 million bridge to connect Abu Dhabi with nearby Sadiyat island.

Hundreds of thousands of Asian labourers who came for the building boom have left. Many who stayed have taken wage cuts. Western expatriates are leaving too, taking their purchasing power with them and vacating expensive villas.

Real estate prices and rents have plunged by a third to two-thirds, causing severe problems for investors and for banks which lend them money. Developers have built too much.

Residents in Saudi Arabia estimate 40 per cent of the commercial real estate there is empty.

In Kuwait, with a population of 1.7 million, some 35,000 residential units are vacant, though there are plans to build 25,000 more as part of a campaign to give all Kuwaitis a home.

At least five big office blocks are being built in Bahrain's prestigious "diplomatic quarter," yet estate agents say at least three others already there are up for sale at less than the cost of building them.

But at least a drop in rents has brought them to a "normal level from the previous exaggerated heights," as Mr. Eid Bakheet Al Mazroui, an undersecretary in Abu Dhabi, put it.

Throughout the Gulf, those with money tied up in shares or real estate are reluctant to sell at today's low prices, usually a fraction of peak values.

A banking source in Saudi Arabia commented: "Banks are reluctant to foreclose on real estate that was collateral for their loans. It's only coming out to be worth one-half or one-third the value."

Luxury hotels which mushroomed throughout the region in the oil boom report a drastic decrease in business.

Occupancy at Abu Dhabi's International Hotel has slumped 30 per cent in two years and sales manager, Mr. Ahmad Ramadan, says dining out is down, especially among foreigners.

Many people are tightening their belts over the oil boom is over.

A Qatari merchant selling videos and televisions complained: "The shopping spree of the past are gone, and we can hardly cover our expenses."

But despite the recession, Gulf states remain among the world's richest. Kuwait's per capita income, down nearly a third between 1980 and 1984, is still about \$14,000 a year.

As a senior banker in Kuwait put it, Kuwaitis may no longer change their car every year, and the second car may now be a modest Japanese model. Times are hard — relatively speaking.

Congressional team approves U.S. farm bill

WASHINGTON (R) — Congressional negotiators Saturday night approved a bill authorising aggressive trade measures to boost slumping U.S. farm exports and major changes in long-standing domestic agricultural support programmes.

The legislation, unanimously passed by a conference committee from the House of Representatives and the Senate, will be considered this week by the full House and Senate and then submitted to President Reagan for approval.

"I think we're in good shape (with this bill)," Senate majority leader, Mr. Robert Dole of Kansas said.

The five-year measure faces an uncertain future at the White House because it costs at least \$2 billion more than a \$50 billion limit set by Mr. Reagan and delays for two years reductions in farm subsidies he sought.

Wall Street's bull market rally continues

NEW YORK (R) — The bulls are in full control on Wall Street and analysts see no immediate end to the record-breaking rally that has propelled its leading indicator ahead by more than 200 points since September.

The Dow Jones industrial average soared by 23.97 points at the end of last week to an all-time high of 1,535.21 to cap one of the New York Stock Exchange's best weeks in history.

Although no-one is mentioning 1,600 yet, the next mark of 1,550 is seen as distinctly possible. Just a few days ago the index of 30 key shares closed above 1,500 for the first time.

"There's no sign yet of a top," said Mr. Lew Smith of Bear, Stearns. A more accurate sign of a market top than price action may be a radical expansion of volume, he said.

The Dow index gained 58.03 points in the week, in which it set

However, analysts said hopes for a cut in this trendsetting rate were wishful thinking. They said that with a key policymaking committee meeting set for this week and the first estimate of the economy's growth due later, it was too early to expect a central-bank cut.

And they said that although the economy continues to be sluggish, it is not considered sluggish enough to warrant action that might lead to inflation further down the road.

Investors think the outlook is good for stocks because of easing interest rates, a lower dollar and declining oil prices, as well as prospects of action in Washington next year to reduce the spectre of the huge federal budget deficits.

Mr. Jack Conlon of E.F. Hutton group said the rally had elements of an "old-fashioned buying stampede" from both institutional and small investors.

"There are a lot of factors going for the market and it has the potential to go a great deal higher," said Mr. Thom Brown of Butcher and Singer in Philadelphia.

There is an expression on Wall Street that the "trees don't grow to the sky" but few analysts or pessimists are willing to predict when they expect the buying spree to end. They have been wrong so many times in the last few months.

Interest rates on treasury bills, the benchmark bonds that form the basis for bank lending rates, fell to their lowest level of the decade last week on expectations that the U.S. discount rate may decline to seven per cent.

The rates on three and six-month treasury bills dropped below seven per cent and many traders viewed it as a signal that the Federal Reserve (Fed) will reduce the discount rate from 7.5 per cent.

The discount rate, at which the

Fed lends money to depository institutions, has been 7.5 per cent since May.

Short-term treasury bond rates have not been below seven per cent since the spring of 1978. Long term 30-year treasury bonds closed at 9.53 per cent, the lowest since June 1980.

A combination of favourable factors last week reinforced the bond rally and trend toward lower interest rates.

Falling food and energy prices, the passage of the Gramm-Rudman balanced budget bill and the Fed pumping money into the economy dampened the prospect of inflation and dealers say this has set the stage for the Fed to ease monetary policy.

Gramm-Rudman calls for a balanced budget by 1991. Trimming the huge federal deficit translates into less government borrowing and decreased pressure on interest rates.

EC ministers meet today to resolve rows

BRUSSELS (R) — Wrangling over a proposed increase in the modest powers of the European Parliament is expected to dominate a meeting here Monday of European Community (EC) foreign ministers.

Diplomats said the dispute is likely to undermine efforts of the ministers to put final touches to an EC summit agreement on updating the Community's founding treaty.

The 10 heads of state and government and representatives of future members Spain and Portugal agreed on a series of amendments and additions to the 1957 Treaty of Rome at their Luxembourg summit less than two weeks ago.

But Italy and Denmark have so far refused to endorse the agreement and diplomats said there was no sign that either was likely to have a change of heart at Monday's meeting.

Rome mainly wants to see the European Parliament's powers significantly boosted while Copenhagen sees any increase of its role as the thin end of the wedge towards a dilution of jealousy guarded sovereignty.

The diplomats said there was little chance of an early breakthrough on the dispute and thus the ministers will not be able to achieve much progress overall on the Luxembourg summit agreement.

The expected failure of ministers to finalise the summit deal would prevent the 12 from signing the treaty agreement before Spain and Portugal join on Jan. 1.

The Strasbourg-based parliament, which has long complained about its lack of authority on anything but budget matters, can now express an opinion on new policies agreed by member governments but ministers are not obliged to take any notice of this opinion.

The summit agreed that the parliament's opinion should be taken into account and considered in a "second reading" by the ministers.

Soviet economy sails along wind of change

MOSCOW — If Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev has got off to a running start towards his highly ambitious goal of doubling industrial output in the next 15 years, it is, in large measure, due to the Andropov experiment.

The impression given by a visit to two industrial plants in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev — one a humdrum brewery and the other a world leader in metallurgy — is of remarkable change. They show, at least in the Ukraine, the second most important Soviet republic, that (a) Mr. Gorbachev has a real reform legacy to build on, and (b) that some local industrialists and politicians are reacting to Moscow's wind of change with reformist ideas of their own, instead of waiting for a Moscowite lead.

It was the late Yuri Andropov, Mr. Gorbachev's political mentor and predecessor, who launched in January 1984 the "experiment" to give more autonomy to enterprises — transport and electrical machinery generally, light industry in Belorussia and Lithuania, and food processing in the Ukraine.

This is how the Oboloo brewery and soft drinks factory in the concrete high-rise outskirts of Kiev came to be one of the "guinea pigs". Mr. Leonid Riabchinskiy, its director, is "positively bursting

almost like one of his city's famous chicken specialists, with enthusiasm about the results — sales up more than 20 per cent and labour productivity up more than 10 per cent.

The experiment, currently covering 12 per cent of national output, is to be relabelled "the new economic conditions", indicating a new degree of permanence, and extended to half of Soviet industry next year and all of it by 1990.

The essence of the reform has been to increase the autonomy of the factory's managers and workers at the expense of the republican and national ministries' administrative powers, but, as a check on this new autonomy, also increase the market power of the factory's customers.

Previously, the production plan was imposed from above and our management views were frequently ignored," says Mr. Riabchinskiy.

Traditionally, Soviet enterprises have always sought the lowest possible output target and highest possible inputs — one factor creating the country's chronic shortages. This is because profits and wage bonuses have been geared to over-fulfilment of the output target, regardless of whether the extra production was saleable or not.

Under the reform, profits and wage bonuses depend on how many goods are sold or contracted for by customers, not on the height of the unsold stockpile in the factory warehouse.

The ministries no longer tell Oboloo how many workers it should employ or what technology it should use. They simply set a "norm" that workers should be paid X roubles per Y unit of sold output.

The sanction on this newfound freedom is the contract system, or, in a sense, the market. "We have 800 customers. If one single contract is not fulfilled, we lose a flat 15 per cent of the wage bonus fund, and for each one per cent of contract under-fulfilment, we lose a further three per cent in wage bonuses, up to a maximum of 25 per cent," says Mr. Riabchinskiy.

The Oboloo director says he has guarded against these draconian penalties by making the volume of his planned production slightly higher than the sum of his anticipated contracts for the year. But the factory can still be hit in its pay packet, if a customer cancels a contract on grounds of poor quality.

Disposal of the extra wage bonuses is decided by Oboloo's worker brigades, chiefly on an individual's merit, according to Mr. Riabchinskiy. Rewards go to tidy workers who leave their machines in good order, or skilful workers who can operate two machines at once.

All workers are involved. "The most important thing," Mr. Riabchinskiy believes, "is that all workers are now involved in the results of their work." Shop-floor discussions and decisions

on profit or bonus-sharing motivate good workers and shame bad workers, he says.

The upshot is that labour productivity, planned to increase last year by 2.4 per cent, rose by 5.6 per cent, and output sold rose by 9.6 per cent in 1984. Perhaps this was beginner's luck, or having the spotlight of experiment on the factory? No, says Mr. Riabchinskiy.

In the first nine months of this year, productivity and output increased by eight and 14 per cent respectively, over last year's good levels. Since the start of 1984, the factory workforce has fallen by 50 people to 1,150, and partly replaced by automatic packing machines.

Did the unions object? No, says the director, because in Kiev as in most of the country there is a labour shortage. "We will go on trying to reduce the labour force," Mr. Riabchinskiy emphasises. Some workers are now paid 30 per cent more than others on the same technical grade.

Do not workers collectively resist such differentials? No, through the work brigades they helped create them, insists the director.

Mr. Riabchinskiy admits, however, that his factory has two special advantages. Partly because it is relatively new, it was even before the reform 150 workers short of the employment "norm" set by the state. An older plant might have had more workers to shed.

Second, the Gorbachev anti-alcohol crackdown has stimulated demand for Oboloo's products, not so much soft drinks but bottled beer — Kievians are now reluctant to stand in the streets drinking beer sold from a travelling truck.

Yet the Oboloo enterprise is not so special. Productivity in the Ukrainian food processing industry generally rose 3.3 per cent in 1984, or one to 1.5 per cent above the gains in other sectors, according to Mr. Alexander Emelyanov, director of the Ukraine Economics Institute.

Mr. Evgeniy Kapustin, head of the Economics Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow, gives the Andropov-

initiated experiment extremely high marks (virtually reminiscent of official Soviet election, turnouts) — 100 per cent success for experiments in the republican light and food industries, and 98.8 per cent in the all-union transport and electrical machinery industries. But he believes that they scored better in terms of saving labour than in speeding technical innovation.

In Kiev, the E.O. Paton Electric Welding Institute decided to do something on its own about the innovation problem. Two years ago, influenced by the Andropov reforms but on its own initiative, it set up six "engineering centres", or consultancies to help enterprises introduce new techniques in return for a fee paid out of savings from new technology.

Mr. Leonid Lobanov, its deputy director, says several enterprises are using his institute's services, but real results will only show when the Andropov management experiment extends to heavy engineering.

In the meantime, however, the Kiev city Communist Party has decided to give technical innovation a political push, by creating the worldy-worn Council of Assistance to Guarantee Scientific and Technical Progress.

The majority of this 50-strong body are scientists and engineers, whose role is to identify areas of desirable innovation and then to use the party's political clout to persuade enterprises to adapt.

Nowhere has Mr. Gorbachev's emphasis on the need for Soviet industry to modernise existing facilities rather than build new ones been more warmly welcomed than in the Ukraine, which despite World War II damage is very much the old industrial heartland of the country.

The republic has been anticipating Mr. Gorbachev in its own local speeding and has devoted a steadily increasing share of investment funds to renovation.

But the lesson of the Ukraine also seems to be that even extra political push and budget money are not quite enough to force change on enterprises from the outside. Financial Times feature.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, DEC. 16, 1985
GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day to put into effect your most original ideas as the new week starts, especially those decisions which you made over the weekend regarding your future progress.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contact good friends and gain their support for some important plan. Try to please your mate in the evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can get much done in whatever is of interest to you during the day, but avoid an associate who can be troublesome.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) An excellent day for gaining prestige. Forget dull work in the evening. Prepare for a trip, but count the cost.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Get duties handled in a more modern way. Steer clear of extravagant pleasure in the evening.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Have a discussion with one of a different background to your own and come to a fine understanding.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get your interests nicely improved and gain the goodwill of bigwigs, but make important visits tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Early plan the pleasure that you desire, but don't be too extravagant in the evening. Be careful around motors and machinery.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get new ideas working that can improve the conditions around your home today. Forget about personal desires for now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Plan how to get your associates to go along with your ideas and get better results. Be more thoughtful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A good day to make more modern improvements to your home and forget about going after a wish.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get busy expressing good ideas that are permeating your mind, and get fine results. Be happier.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't permit a newcomer to monopolize your time. Plan the future very wisely. Take it easy tonight.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY — he or she will be very alert at whatever is going on around him or her and be very interested in modern conditions. Find out what is of greatest interest and permit to go own way without trying to change the mood. Specializing can bring the greatest amount of success during the lifetime.

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

- Bubbly drink
- Freestled
- Propels a dory
- State with conviction
- Give out
- Celebrate on
- Postal service
- Rogal abbr.
- Full of soft
- Take chances
- Noted Chin. name
- Dad
- Law officer
- Large grouper
- Succinct
- A Gabor
- Unfold
- politically
- Corn unit
- Legal profession
- Formerly
- Zodiacal ram
- Freese
- U.N. group
- Shooters' game
- Prosperous times
- Ascend
- Spice ornament
- Expert
- November event
- Merit
- Set
- Toward the center
- Type of gin
- Notes out
- Ragout

DOWN

- Heads story
- Baker's yeast
- Sight
- depression
- Heads measure
- Explanation
- Spindle
- Future flower
- Food fish
- State abbr.
- Deep gorge
- Wallis film
- Tall
- Utters
- Surf sound
- Mangle
- Low
- substance
- Act of departing
- Tabelland
- Each with the other
- Hogan's cousin
- Made of wood
- Star ballroom
- Lutetia
- Instrument
- Use
- A Hagman
- Circus
- character
- Dies —
- Consumes
- Food, novel
- balls
- Ancient aspic
- Walk-ons
- Grandiose
- Ripens
- Sensible
- Jap. decor. two box
- Robert —
- Grammar no-no
- Animal shelter
- Plenty to
- Veneration
- Young male
- "The — and I"
- the season to be...

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. BUBBLY, 2. FREESTLED, 3. PROP, 4. STATE, 5. GIVE, 6. CELEBRATE, 7. POSTAL, 8. ROGAL, 9. FULL, 10. TAKE, 11. NOTED, 12. DAD, 13. LAW, 14. LARGE, 15. SUCCINCT, 16. GABOR, 17. UNFOLD, 18. POLITICALLY, 19. CORN, 20. LEGAL, 21. FORMERLY, 22. ZODIAC, 23. FREESE, 24. U.N., 25. SHOOTERS, 26. PROSPEROUS, 27. ASCEND, 28. SPICE, 29. EXPERT, 30. NOVEMBER, 31. MERIT, 32. SET, 33. TOWARD, 34. TYPE, 35. NOTES, 36. RAGOUT.

DOWN: 1. HEADS, 2. BAKER, 3. SIGHT, 4. DEPRESSION, 5. HEADS, 6. EXPLANATION, 7. SPINDLE, 8. FUTURE, 9. FOOD, 10. STATE, 11. DEEP, 12. WALLIS, 13. TALL, 14. UTTERS, 15. SURF, 16. MANGLE, 17. LOW, 18. SUBSTANCE, 19. ACT, 20. TABELLAND, 21. EACH, 22. HOGAN, 23. MADE, 24. STAR, 25. LUTETIA, 26. INSTRUMENT, 27. USE, 28. HAGMAN, 29. CIRCUS, 30. CHARACTER, 31. DIES, 32. CONSUMES, 33. FOOD, 34. STATE, 35. ANCIENT, 36. WALK-ONS, 37. GRANDIOSE, 38. RIPENS, 39. SENSIBLE, 40. JAPANESE, 41. ROBERT, 42. GRAMMAR, 43. ANIMAL, 44. PLENTY, 45. VENERATION, 46. YOUNG, 47. THE, 48. THE, 49. THE, 50. THE, 51. THE, 52. THE, 53. THE, 54. THE, 55. THE, 56. THE, 57. THE, 58. THE, 59. THE, 60. THE, 61. THE, 62. THE, 63. THE, 64. THE, 65. THE, 66. THE, 67. THE, 68. THE, 69. THE, 70. THE, 71. THE, 72. THE, 73. THE, 74. THE, 75. THE, 76. THE, 77. THE, 78. THE, 79. THE, 80. THE, 81. THE, 82. THE, 83. THE, 84. THE, 85. THE, 86. THE, 87. THE, 88. THE, 89. THE, 90. THE, 91. THE, 92. THE, 93. THE, 94. THE, 95. THE, 96. THE, 97. THE, 98. THE, 99. THE, 100. THE.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CLOAV

UPYTT

LENETS

DENORM

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: HIS

Yesterday's Jumbles: EATEN GOOSE VERMIN EYELED
Answer: What some people do when they hold a conversation — NEVER LET GO

(Answers tomorrow)

United opposition proclaims Aquino as election candidate

Laurel to run for vice-president

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — With pounding drums, political chants and yellow balloons, the newly unified opposition officially proclaimed Corason Aquino as its presidential candidate Sunday and Salvador Laurel as her running mate.

A crowd that swelled to about 20,000 gave President Ferdinand Marcos a massive thumbs-down sign and then lifted fingers aloft in the sign of an "L" for "Laurel" (flight).

"I am not a politician. I do not know how to tell lies. And I am not a dictator. I thank God I am different from Marcos," said Mrs. Aquino, who blames Mr. Marcos for the 1983 assassination of her husband, former Sen. Benigno Aquino. Mrs. Aquino spoke in Tagalog.

Mr. Marcos' former vice president, Fernando Lopez, raised the hands of Mrs. Aquino and Mr. Laurel for the traditional proclamation of candidates.

A wide spectrum of previously squabbling opposition leaders joined on a makeshift stage in front of Manila's Central Post Office. The only major figures absent were former Sen. Jovito Salonga and Eva Estrada Kalaw, both of whom have endorsed Mrs. Aquino but have announced their own vice presidential campaigns.

Mr. Laurel told the crowd his United Nationalist Democratic Organisation (UNIDO) would support Mrs. Aquino even if some other opposition groups try to dump him.

"Even if you don't vote for Salvador Laurel, it's all right as long as you vote for Cory," he said, referring to Mrs. Aquino by her nickname, as do most of her supporters.

Mr. Laurel said Mr. Marcos may cancel the election. Other opposition leaders have said they expect Mr. Marcos to influence the supreme court to declare it unconstitutional if he sees Mrs. Aquino likely to win. A hearing on several challenges to the election is scheduled on Tuesday.

Former Sen. Francisco Rodrigo compared Mrs. Aquino to "Joan of Arc" and some placards called her "mother of the nation."

"I could have gone back to America or lived at home quietly and not bother about the problems of this nation," said Mrs. Aquino, who lived for three years

in Boston, Massachusetts, while her husband was in self-imposed exile.

Among supporters in the crowd were four employees of the court that last month acquitted 25 military men and a civilian in Sen. Aquino's murder. Mrs. Aquino accuses Mr. Marcos of ordering her husband's death. One of the court employees pleaded with reporters not to identify them by name.

The crowd interrupted Mrs. Aquino's speech several times with chants of "Cory, Cory, Cory."

At a suburban Roman Catholic Church before the proclamation rally, the congregation gave Mrs. Aquino a standing ovation and mobbed around her as she left the churchyard.

"I believe that the Lord God will hear all our prayers," Mrs. Aquino said in a short speech during mass.

The rally was the first major campaign event in Manila for either Mrs. Aquino or Mr. Marcos, whose campaigning outside Manila Saturday received day-long live government television and radio coverage. Only two o-o-governments radio stations carried the opposition rally Sunday.

Former Filipino minister dies

MANILA (R) — Carlos Romulo, one of the founders of the United Nations in 1945, died Sunday after a lingering kidney ailment and other problems, a Philippine Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Mr. Romulo, 86, underwent emergency surgery on Tuesday for intestinal bleeding and died from circulatory collapse due to brain, heart, lung, liver and kidney failure.

He retired on his 85th birthday in January 1984 after nearly half a century in the service of the Philippine government including 14 years as foreign minister.

As a tribute to his long service, the National Assembly had approved a special bill allowing him to fly the national flag outside his residence and to use the official Philippine seal.

Romulo returned to San Francisco in June for celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the U.N. Charter and went to Indonesia in April for the 30th anniversary of the Bandung Afro-Asian conference, forerunner of the Non-Aligned Movement.

His American-born wife Beth Day, three sons and a daughter-in-law were at his bedside when he died.

Flight recorder may provide useful information on Gander air disaster

GANDER, Newfoundland (R) — The flight data recorder aboard a plane that crashed here killing 248 U.S. servicemen and eight crew is now expected to provide useful information on the disaster, despite being badly damaged, investigators have said.

Chief investigator Peter Boag said he did not have any details on the kind of information that would be provided. Authorities thought earlier that the recorder had been too badly damaged.

"The word is it (flight recorder) will yield up information," Mr. Boag said at a news conference.

"We have no evidence at this time to point in any one direction as the cause," he said.

The soldiers were members of the 101st Airborne Division returning on a chartered flight from six months of peacekeeping duty as part of the United Nations force in the Sinai peninsula.

They were on their way home to their base in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, for the Christmas holidays when the crash occurred here on Thursday.

Investigators at the crash site were hurrying to finish a preliminary examination of the site as falling snow threatened to cover the wreckage.

"Almost all of our efforts today have been directed at documenting the condition of the wreckage at the field and locating

the wreckage," Mr. Boag said Saturday.

Aviation experts in Ottawa will examine the wreckage after the on-site work is finished.

Authorities hope to obtain some information on the cause of death by performing autopsies on the bodies.

At the request of the province of Newfoundland the autopsies will be done on all the bodies when they arrive at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on Monday.

Two U.S. military aircraft will take the first bodies to Dover on Monday, Capt. Kramer said, and more would be flown there on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Meanwhile at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, food, toys and money poured in to this army base Saturday as residents and army officials united to aid and console the grieving families of 248 soldiers killed in a plane crash.

Army Chief of Staff General John Wickham made a special visit Saturday to console soldiers at the base he once commanded.

"This is a very traumatic time for the post and the individuals here," said Maj. James Gleisberg, a spokesman at the dead soldiers' home base.

Flags in the region were flying at half-staff in tribute to the victims, who are being remembered by res-

idents as the "fallen eagles."

Fort Campbell chaplains, who themselves suffered the loss of one chaplain in the crash, comforted the families.

"Many of the women had talked to their husbands by phone from Cairo and knew they were on the plane," said Chaplain Jim Phelps.

"We wanted to be with them, affirming them and saying life does go on," he said.

Each family will receive a \$3,000 payment from the government, and widows will be allowed to continue living in military housing for at least 60 to 90 days.

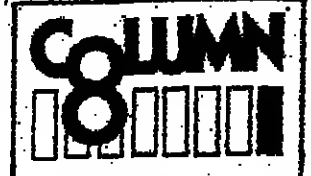
Donations of money, toys and food have been pouring in from individuals and businesses in the area. Two local funds have collected over \$15,000 for the families so far.

Chaplain Tom Preston said the widows he visited were "still numb from the shock. They don't know quite what they need yet."

The Baptist minister added that he detected no bitterness — "Just the ever-present question of 'why did this have to happen?'"

Phelps said the families had talked about "a whole range of questions from life going on to mundane matters of money."

"They also have questions after the initial emotion and we talked about what comes next. The army cares for its own," he said.



Man sentenced to death by stoning for adultery

DUBAI (R) — An Indian expatriate worker was sentenced to death by stoning by an Islamic court in the Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for committing adultery with an Indian housemaid, local newspapers reported Sunday. Karkidel Kader Sulaiman, 27 and married, confessed to the crime after 29-year-old Sawara Gori was admitted to a hospital in Sharjah following a miscarriage. She was ordered deported after serving a three-month jail term. It is the third death sentence to be passed on Indian workers in the UAE in as many days. Last Thursday, two Indians were sentenced to die for murder and adultery.

Police chase intruder over roof of 10 Downing Street

LONDON (R) — Armed detectives captured an intruder in a late-night chase across the roof of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's official London residence, police said Sunday. The incident, on Friday night, provoked a security alert, with police searching government buildings near the residence, 10 Downing Street, a Scotland Yard spokesman said. "There was a brief chase on the roof and the man climbed down a drain pipe and was arrested on the ground," he said. Thatcher left the London house for her official country residence, Chequers, at the time of the incident. The man, a 25-year-old Australian, was not armed and was freed unchanged after questioning, the spokesman said. "Technically he was not breaking the law," he said.

Youths hurl live rats at police

PAMPLONA, Spain (R) — Live rats were hurled at police during a protest demonstration over alleged housing shortages in this northern Spanish city, officials said Sunday. About 500 youths were involved in the clash in which one policeman was slightly injured and one arrested was made, the officials said. A group of protestors, mainly ecologists and rockers, tried to break down the door of the city hall and later took over a vacant government building. Police later ejected them.

British Marquess held on drug charge

LONDON (R) — The Marquess of Blandford, a great-nephew of British wartime leader Sir Winston Churchill, has been arrested following the seizure of cocaine worth £50,000 (\$72,000) and will appear in court Monday, police said. A police spokesman said that the marquess was among five people arrested at various addresses in London on Friday and charged with conspiracy to contravene the misuse of drugs act. The marquess, 30-year-old son and heir of the Duke of Marlborough, was charged under the name of James Spencer-Churchill of Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire. All five are in custody at a central London police station.

Han Dynasty coins unearthed in China

PEKING (AP) — Two large caches of 2,000-year-old bronze coins have been unearthed in southern China's Hunan province, the official News Agency Xinhua said Saturday. Peasants in Qiyang county found 250 kilograms of coins last month, which local experts say were minted during the reign of Han Dynasty Emperor Liu (140-87 B.C.), Xinhua said.

Vandals smear mud on slain London policewoman's memorial

LONDON (AP) — Vandals have smeared mud over a memorial to the British policewoman killed in a shooting outside the Libyan embassy in April 1984, police said. A Scotland Yard spokesman, who declined to say his name, said the vandals also scattered flowers left at the base of the memorial in the early-morning incident. The 4-foot (1.1-metre) stone in St. James's Square was the first memorial to honour a British police officer at the scene of death. It marks the spot where Yvonne Fletcher, 25, was killed by gunfire which police said was directed from the embassy at Libyan exiles demonstrating outside.

World Soccer Cup draw

MEXICO CITY (R) — Following is the draw for the opening phase of Mexico's 1986 World Cup finals made in Mexico City Sunday, including numbers assigned to teams for the match schedule:

Group A (to be played in Puebla and the Olympic Stadium, Mexico City)

- Italy
- Bulgaria
- Argentina
- South Korea

Group B (Aztec Stadium, Mexico City and Toluca)

- Mexico
- Belgium
- Paraguay
- Iraq

Group C (Leon and Irapuato)

- France
- Canada
- Soviet Union
- Hungary

Group D (Guadalajara)

- Brazil
- Spain
- Algeria
- Northern Ireland

Group E (Queretaro and Neza Stadium, Mexico City)

- West Germany
- Uruguay
- Scotland
- Denmark

Group F (Monterrey)

- Poland
- Morocco
- Portugal
- England

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J106 ♥ KQ72 ○ 85 ♣ KJ6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ 2 ♠
Pass Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—Since partner could have a fair hand with no convenient bid, you must find the bid most likely to encourage him. That rules out two hearts, which is merely competitive. We suggest you bid three clubs. Partner should realize that you must have a good hand to raise his minor suit, that has not been rebid to the three-level.
Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J53 ♥ 8742 ○ Q8532 ♣ 3
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—You do not have much of a hand, but partner has bid to the three-level, all on his own, despite the fact that he is vulnerable. Your three trumps and singleton club might be all that he needs to make game. With that attractive rubber bonus dangling in front of our eyes, we must venture four aces.
Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 107 ♥ 6 ○ KQ9 ♣ AQJ9842
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A.—In light of partner's vulnerable overall, you must be close to game. A bid of two clubs would not be forcing, and you certainly would like to have partner bid again. However, because of the possible misfit, you are not worth a cue-bid of two hearts. As a compromise, jump to three clubs. This also isn't forcing, but it is highly encouraging. If partner does find another bid, you will know where to place the contract.
Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 107 ♥ 6 ○ KQ9 ♣ AQJ9842
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—You hate to pass partner's rebid when he has good four-card support for his second major suit. However, with only one ace, doubtful values in the minor suits and flat distribution, we have no other choice here.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ QAKJ1052 ♥ Q76 ♣ K4
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
Pass ?

What is your opening bid?
A.—According to all the textbooks, including our own, you have the values for a one heart opening bid. However, opposite a partner who has passed your defensive prospects are bleak and you can't even be sure that it is your hand. We would choose four hearts in an attempt to keep the enemy out of the auction.

TO ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS AND AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Ministry of Tourism wishes to purchase original colour photo slides depicting all archaeological and tourist sites of Jordan. Those wishing to sell such slides should present them to the ministry's design department as of Monday Dec. 16, 1985.

Gonzalez expected to drop Cuba visit

MADRID (R) — Spain's Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez would have to drop plans to visit Cuba as a result of a diplomatic row following the expulsion of four Cuban officials, the Madrid daily newspaper El Pais said Sunday.

Quoting high-ranking Spanish officials, El Pais said that Mr. Gonzalez had planned to make his first official visit to Cuba by next March, but the ensuing row over the expulsions would force him to cancel his plans.

Spain Saturday expelled the Cuban vice-consul in Madrid, Angel Leon Cervantes, and three other Cuban embassy staff accused of trying to kidnap a Cuban defector at gunpoint.

The four were detained on Friday when they tried to bundle Manuel Sanchez Perez into a car outside a Madrid bank. Police said Leon Cervantes and an embassy clerk had guns.

6 world leaders receive 1985 Beyond War Award

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In a live television broadcast spanning five continents, leaders or former leaders of six nations have received the 1985 Beyond War Award for their combined efforts to end the threat of nuclear annihilation.

Each leader received the award in his own country in satellite-linked, individual ceremonies viewed in the other countries. The ceremonies originated simultaneously from Africa, North America, South America, Asia and Europe.

Recipients of the award were: Argentina's President Raul Alfonsín in Buenos Aires; India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi; Mexico's President Miguel de la Madrid in Mexico City; Tanzania's First President, Julius Nyerere in Dar Es Salaam; Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme in Stockholm; and Greece's Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu in Athens.

The San Francisco event's host and coordinator for the complex production was Richard Rathbun, president of the Beyond War Foundation. The educational

group was founded three years ago in Palo Alto, California, and boasts 8,000 members. Their aim: Convince people war is obsolete.

They were honoured for their "five continent peace initiative" and promulgation of the Delhi declaration this year that appealed to nuclear weapon states to "search for a new direction" and "eliminate nuclear arms everywhere."

The worldwide telecast involved four million miles (6.5 million kilometers) of signal paths, bouncing around the planet from earth stations to satellites like tennis balls. There were a few silent and blank stretches, but pictures generally were strong and bright.

In San Francisco, the principal ceremonial site for the \$500,000 event that stretched across 13 time zones, an auditorium audience of 3,000 witnessed a live, split-screen montage of the audiences in the other nations simultaneously. All the countries could see and hear one another.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and many U.N. ambassadors watched the ceremony in New York.

Dhaka plans peace talks with rebels

DHAKA (R) — The Bangladesh government has invited guerrilla leaders to secret talks aimed at ending 14 years of separatist insurgency in the southern hill tracts area which have killed more than 6,000 people, officials said Sunday.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the meeting was expected to take place later this month or early in January.

They told Reuters that a meeting in October — the first between the two sides — had laid the grounds for future talks with an estimated 3,000 guerrillas who are still hiding out.

The government says that more

than 3,500 members of the outlawed Shanti Bahini (Peace Force), the main guerrilla group, surrendered during an 18-month amnesty which ended in April.

It adds that the rebels will be offered jobs and money if they stop fighting and drop their demand for autonomy for the 5,100 square mile (13,000 square kilometre) hill tracts.

The rugged hills and thick forests bordering Burma and the Indian state of Assam are home to more than 26 tribes.

The guerrillas took up arms after the government rejected their demands and began to resettle thousands of people from the

crowded plains in the fertile hill areas where rice, vegetables and pineapples can be grown.

The rebels said the resettlement scheme would destroy the tribes' cultures and gradually reduce them to a minority.

In the worst outbreak of violence, the guerrillas killed nearly 200 settlers, wounded about 1,000 others and burned their houses in June, 1984.

Officials Sunday said they hoped the rebels would respond to the offer of talks.

"They should feel the urgency of such talks and the government's sincerity in helping them to start a new life," one official said.

Afghan talks reopen in Geneva today

GENEVA (R) — Western diplomats will study talks opening here Monday between Afghanistan and Pakistan for signs of any shift in Soviet backing for Kabul's fight against Afghan guerrillas.

The "proximity talks" with U.N. Under-Secretary-General Diego Cordovez as go-between to Afghan and Pakistan delegations in separate rooms, are aimed at ending the guerrilla war against the Communist government.

In a gesture coinciding with the renewed talks, the United States has formally told Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Washington is willing to act as a guarantor of an Afghan peace pact if it includes a Soviet troop withdrawal.

Officials in Washington said the pledge was to test what some interpreted as a new Soviet flexibility towards an Afghan settlement at last month's Geneva summit between U.S. President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

U.S. officials said some in the Reagan administration believed that during the summit Mr. Gorbachev signalled a desire to make a deal at the U.N.-mediated talks.

This week's talks, scheduled to last until Friday, will be the sixth round since negotiations began in June 1982.

They almost coincide with the sixth round since negotiations began in June 1982.

They almost coincide with the sixth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979 when Moscow sent troops to help fight the rebels.

Pakistan, where guerrillas find sanctuary, does not recognise President Babrak Karmal's government and has never accepted Afghan demands to meet face to face.

Iran refuses to join the talks until Afghan guerrillas are represented.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said after the November summit that Afghanistan had been discussed extensively.

Soviet officials at the summit publicly admitted unhappiness at having some 115,000 troops in neighbouring Afghanistan, and emphasised support for a political solution.

Western diplomats following the talks said this did not necessarily signal a shift in Moscow's attitude and looked to this week's talks for clearer signs.

Foreign ministers of Afghanistan and Pakistan, Shah Mahmud Dost and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, agreed at an earlier round this year to ask the superpowers to act as guarantors as part of a four-point peace plan.

Two other documents have virtually been completed during previous rounds. One covers the return of three million refugees from Pakistan and the other covers gua-

rantees of non-interference.

The fourth document, on the withdrawal of Soviet troops, remains a major obstacle.

Pakistan has said Kabul must change its demand for direct talks and agree to a clear timetable for the withdrawal.

Yaqub Khan said recently Kabul was insisting on direct talks to win recognition from Pakistan rather than seek an end to the war.

On his way to Geneva the Afghan foreign minister met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow. The official Soviet News Agency TASS said they agreed a settlement of the Afghan problem depended on ending external armed and other intervention in Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union has often said it will pull its troops out of Afghanistan when external interference stops — a reference to support for the guerrillas from the United States, Pakistan, China and other Middle East countries.

The U.N. General Assembly, which has repeatedly called for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, last week adopted for the first time a resolution expressing deep concern over human rights there.

The assembly said it was concerned that the Afghan authorities, "with heavy support from foreign troops" were acting with severity against their opponents without respect for human rights.

Zia ends Sri Lanka visit

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (Agencies) — President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq of Pakistan ended a five-day state visit to Sri Lanka Sunday with a strong affirmation of friendly ties between the two nations.

"If Pakistan had been an arms trader or armaments producer, I would have put all I had in support of Sri Lanka's fight against terrorism," Gen. Zia said at a news conference.

Gen. Zia had said earlier he would give Sri Lanka full support in its current confrontation. The pledge, he told reporters, meant that he would support the country morally, politically, and economically.

Sri Lankan government forces have been battling guerrillas from the nation's Tamil minority, who seek to establish their own independent state, saying they now are subject to discrimination by the majority Sinhalese. The Sri Lankan government refers to the guerrillas as "terrorists."

Gen. Zia also said he had noted the positive response from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in efforts to resolve strained relations between India and Pakistan. He said relations at present are cordial and friendly.

"There have been areas of friction, some misconceptions, some doubts and some misapprehensions. This is the legacy of a checkered history of 27 years and the prospects of cementing good neighbourly relations are there now," he said.

Gen. Zia said there was promise that Pakistan's relations with India would be as good as they are now with Sri Lanka.

Gen. Zia denied Sunday that Pakistan harboured any military aims in its nuclear programme.

"Pakistan has neither the cap-

ability nor the desire to enter into any aspect of military use of nuclear technology," he told reporters before leaving for the Maldives.

Gen. Zia, who came here from the first South Asian summit in Dhaka last weekend, stated: "Pakistan has neither got to answer anybody's charges nor is it under any obligation to clarify its position as to where its uranium is going."

Mr. Gandhi said in Delhi last week that Pakistan could answer charges it was making a nuclear bomb by explaining why it was producing enriched uranium.

Gen. Zia said however that Pakistan was producing only low-grade enriched uranium useful for peaceful purposes.

Gen. Zia said he was optimistic about the possible outcome of the sixth round of United Nations sponsored talks on Afghanistan due to start in Geneva Monday.

"I see good prospects for Geneva six. I feel such talks, although they are indirect, will help in defusing the situation. There is no military solution possible. A political solution has to be found," he said.

He added that he would consider the talks successful if they led to a seventh round of discussions.

Gen. Zia declined to specify a date for lifting martial law in Pakistan but said it would be near the end of this month.

He ruled out any elections soon after the lifting of martial law. "Elections would be held after the present five-year term of parliament ended unless something happened and parliament decided on an early election," he said.

Gen. Zia will spend two days in the Maldives before travelling to New Delhi on Tuesday for talks with Mr. Gandhi.